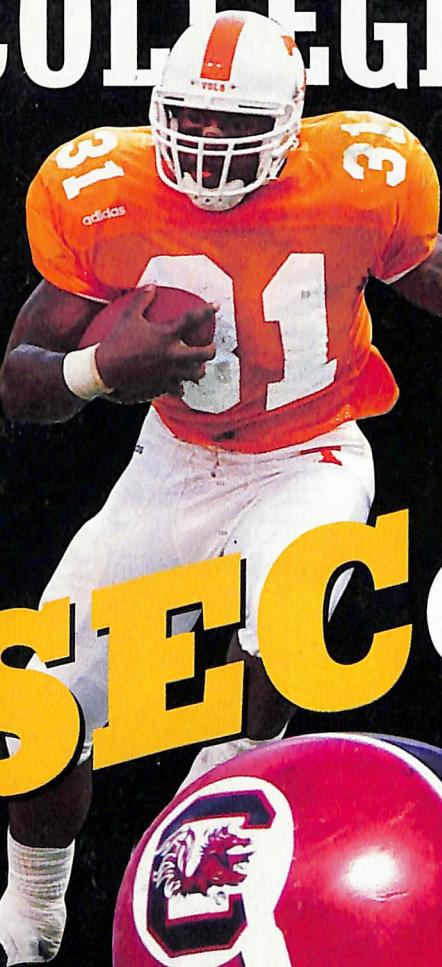
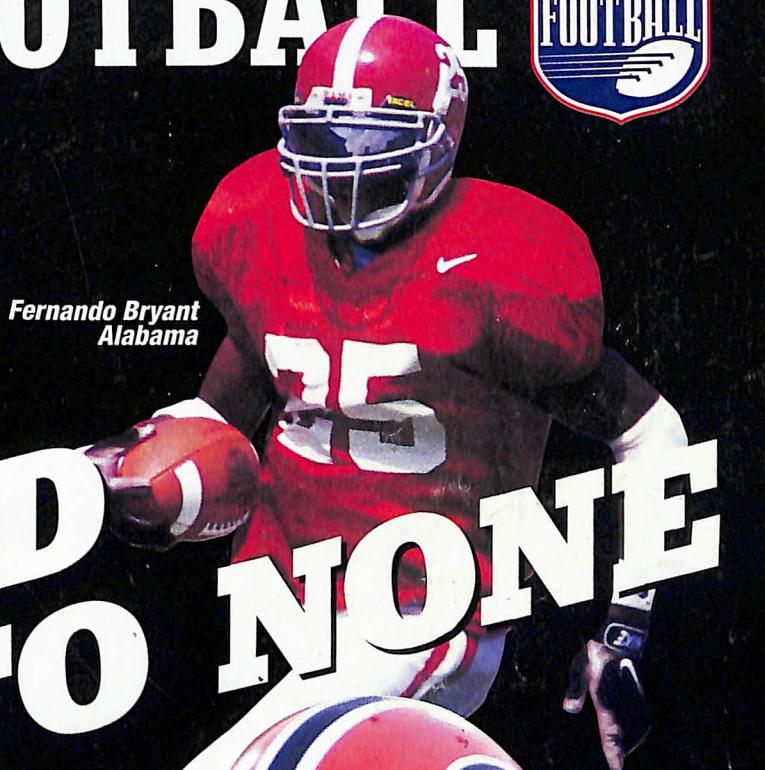


AMERICA'S SPORTS BIBLE FOR PREVIEWS AND PREDICTION

Street & Smith's COLLEGE FOOTBALL

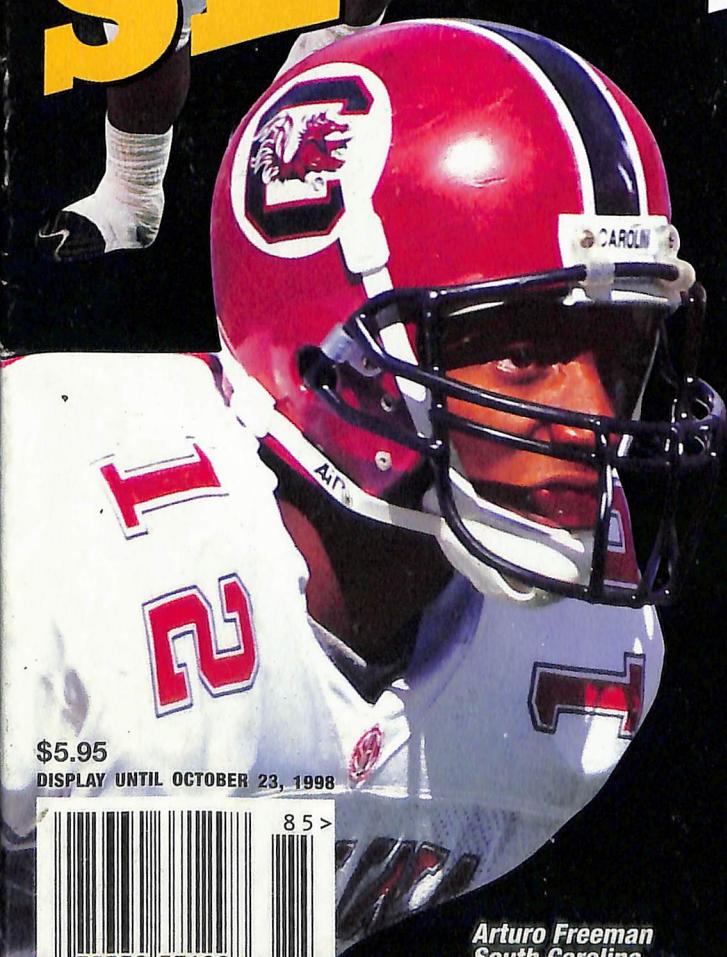


Jamal Lewis
Tennessee

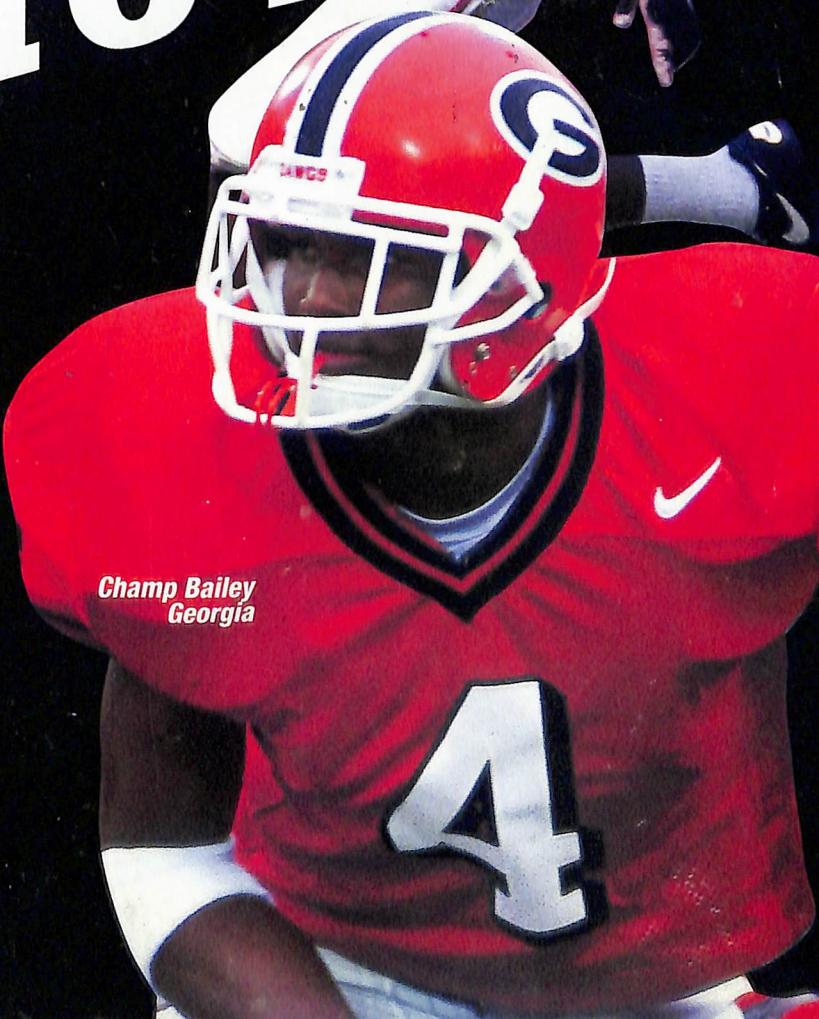


Fernando Bryant
Alabama

SECOND TO NONE



Arturo Freeman
South Carolina



Champ Bailey
Georgia

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HOME OF THE

The homepage features a banner at the top with the text "SportsFan Radio (keyword: SportsFan)" and a "Complete Site Index". Below the banner is a large graphic for "WILLIAMS COFIELD" featuring a photo of Steve Cofield. To the right of the banner are sections for "SPORTSFAN BASEBALL COVERAGE" and "MOMS ON THE STRIP". A "STOP" sign graphic with the text "If You're Behind In Your Credit Card Payments GET HELP TODAY click here" is also present. At the bottom of the page are links for various sports categories like Pro Football, NCAA Football, Hockey, Women's Sports, etc.

This AOL page for "SPORTSFAN OPINION" shows a sidebar with links to "SportsFan Online", "SFRN Live Feed", "About the Show", and "Ryan Williams' Bio". The main content area is titled "RYAN WILLIAMS AND STEVE COFIELD ON AOL!" and discusses their co-hosting of "SportsFan Saturday" and "SportsFan Sunday". It includes sections for "TUESDAY", "FRIDAY", and "Now Hear This". At the bottom are links for "Main Page", "Message Boards", and "Live Chat".



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FROM THE EDITOR

Who's No. 1? A new plan could finally answer that question on the field.

College football ripped off another long gain on the way toward its goal of establishing a national championship game. Those eager to see the top team crowned on the field rather than in the polls were left unsatisfied once again last January. Undefeated Michigan was committed to the Rose Bowl and thus could not meet undefeated Nebraska, which went to the Orange Bowl, for the national title. Thus, after the Wolverines and the Cornhuskers emerged victorious over, respectively, Washington State and Tennessee, they were forced to share the final No. 1 ranking.

This, however, could be the year college football fans fed up with split national champions have all awaited. For the first time, the Rose Bowl will be part of the new bowl championship series (Fiesta, Rose, Sugar, and Orange), the alliance that assures No. 1 meets No. 2 at season's end. The Pac-10 and Big Ten winners, along with those in the Big 12, Atlantic Coast, Southeastern, and Big East Conferences, plus two at-large teams, are now eligible for a matchup at the Fiesta Bowl, the site of this season's title showdown on January 4.

The new system is not foolproof. The alliance could still give us a disputed national championship. For example, what happens if Michigan, Nebraska, and Florida State all end up undefeated at the end of the regular season? Who plays in the Fiesta Bowl then? It could happen. As recently as 1993, Auburn, Nebraska, and West Virginia all ended the regular season unbeaten.

Still, the new plan provides a framework for a possible playoff. As Randall Mell points out on page 16, if Division I-A is ever going to have a playoff, it will evolve out of the alliance's ability to preserve the bowl system by turning bowl games into quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship sites.

Last year's NFL draft was defined by two marvelous quarterbacks, Tennessee's Peyton Manning and Washington State's Ryan Leaf, who were selected 1-2 in the first round, only the fourth time that has ever happened. The 1999 draft, though, might repeat it. One thing seems certain: Quarterbacks will be in great supply next season. At least five, and possibly six, will be drafted in the first round. Three could be among the top six picks.

That will be especially true if Kentucky junior Tim Couch comes out as expected. Most of those close to the Wildcat program believe this will be the talented Couch's last year. It was thought in pro circles that Couch could have made it a 1-2-3 sweep for quarterbacks if he had come out last spring.

With that in mind, we are predicting that Couch will be the next year's No. 1 selection. Following close behind, not necessarily in this order, will be Cade McNown (UCLA), Daunte Culpepper (Central Florida), Donovan McNabb (Syracuse), and Brock Huard (Washington), making this the richest class since the legendary 1983 draft produced John Elway, Jim Kelly, Dan Marino, Todd Blackledge, Tony Eason, and Ken O'Brien all in the first round.

Stay tuned.



Street & Smith's

July 1998

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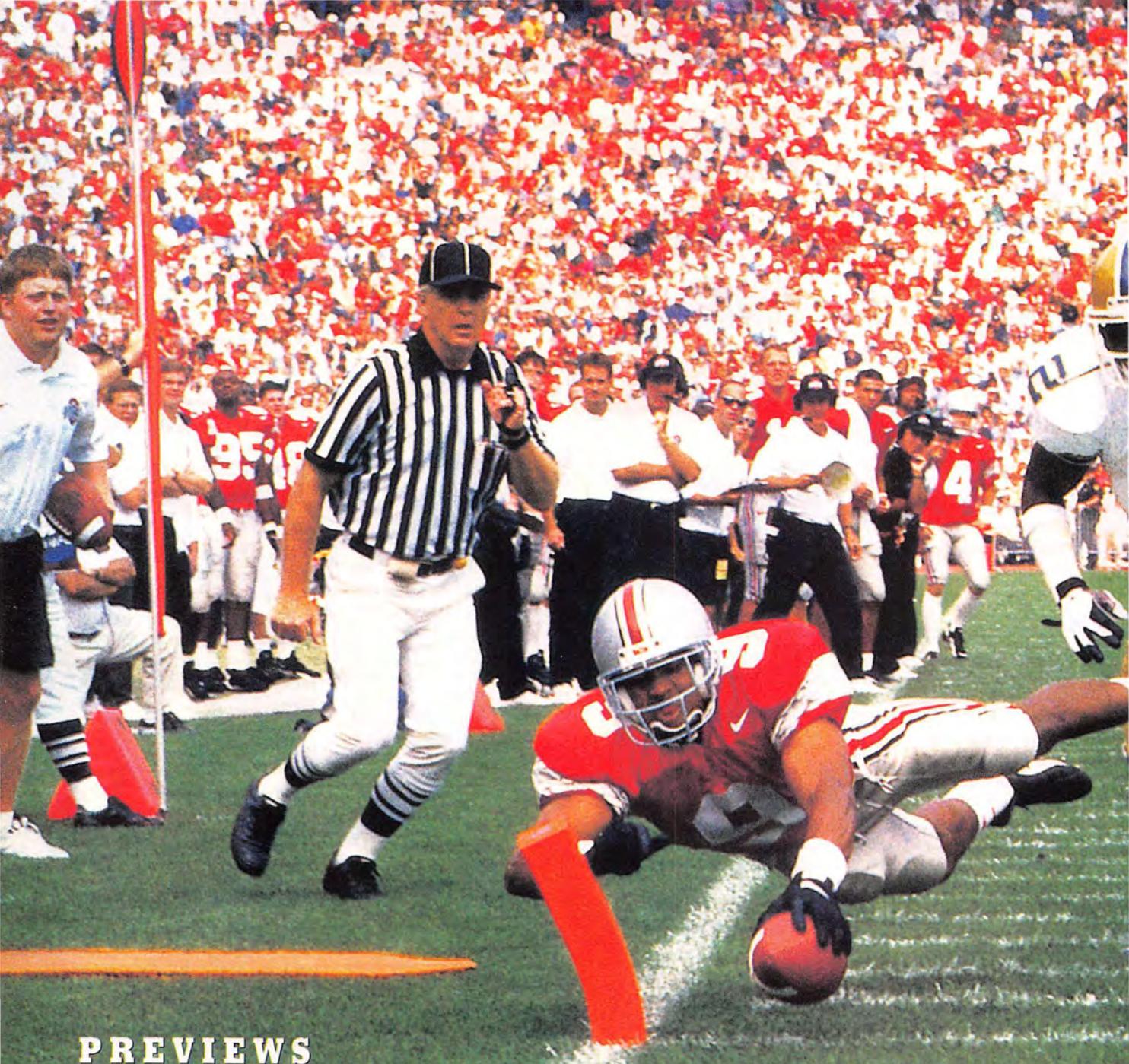
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Street & Smith's COLLEGE FOOTBALL



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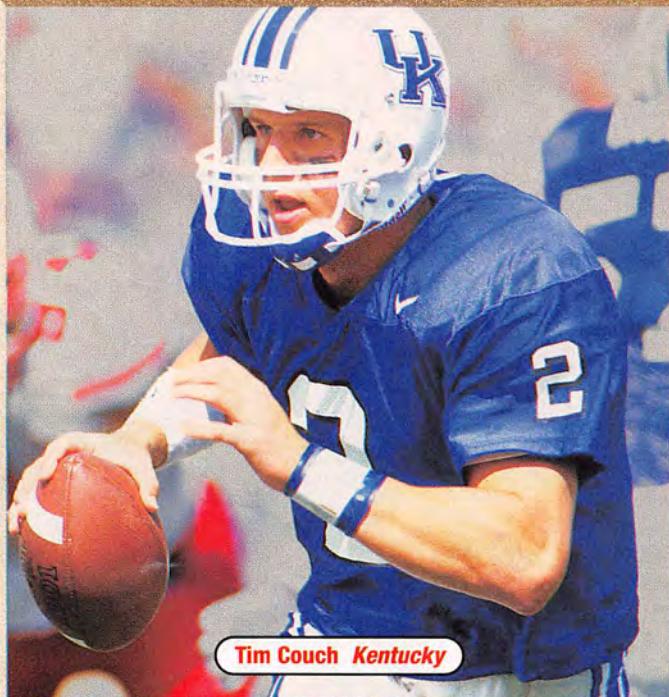
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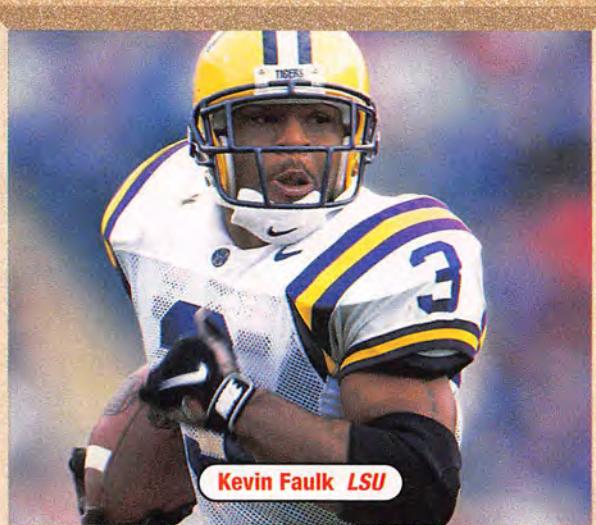
Tim Couch Kentucky



Ed Chester Florida



Andy Katzenmoyer Ohio State

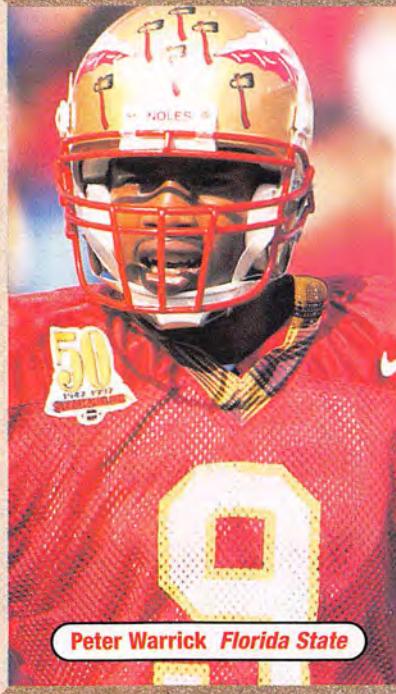


Kevin Faulk LSU

AMERICAS



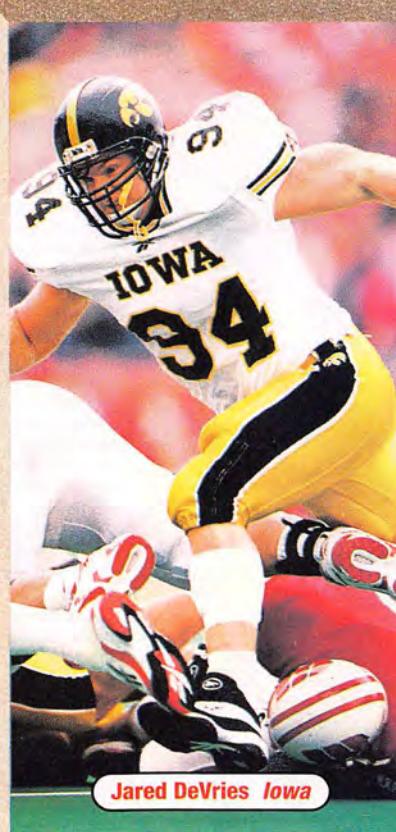
Ricky Williams Texas



Peter Warrick Florida State



Dré Bly North Carolina



Jared DeVries Iowa

Compiled by Jim Carley

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB Tim Couch JR Kentucky
RB Ricky Williams SR Texas
RB Kevin Faulk SR LSU
WR Peter Warrick JR Florida State
WR Troy Walters SR Stanford
TE Jerame Tuman SR Michigan
OL Grey Ruegamer SR Arizona State
OL Jay Humphrey SR Texas
OL Matt Stinchcomb SR Georgia
OL Tony Coats SR Washington
OL Jon Jansen JR Michigan
PK Martin Gramatica SR Kansas State

DEFENSE

DL Ed Chester SR Florida
DL Jared DeVries SR Iowa
DL Robaire Smith JR Michigan State
DL Adallus Thomas JR Southern Miss
LB Andy Katzenmoyer JR Ohio State
LB Chris Claiborne JR USC
LB Jevon Kearse JR Florida
DB Dré Bly JR North Carolina
DB Larry Atkins SR UCLA
DB Anthony Poindexter SR Virginia
DB Chris McAllister SR Arizona
P Shane Lechler JR Texas A&M

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB Cade McNown SR UCLA
RB Ron Dayne JR Wisconsin
RB Amos Zereoue JR West Virginia
WR Eugene Baker SR Kent
WR R. Jay Soward JR USC
TE Rufus French JR Ole Miss
OL Aaron Gibson SR Wisconsin
OL Rob Murphy JR Ohio State
OL Todd Neimyer SR Missouri
OL Steve Hutchinson SO Michigan
OL Frank Mindrup SR Air Force
PK Chris Sailor SR UCLA

DEFENSE

DL Adewale Ogunleye JR Indiana
DL Jimmy Brumbaugh SR Auburn
DL Mike Rucker SR Nebraska
DL Anthony McFarland SR LSU
LB Johnny Rutledge SR Florida
LB Brandon Short JR Penn State
LB Dat Nguyen SR Texas A&M
DB Champ Bailey JR Georgia
DB Andre Weathers SR Michigan
DB Daylon McCutcheon SR USC
DB Antoine Winfield SR Ohio State
P John Baker JR North Texas

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Honorable Mention

Quarterbacks

Todd Bandhauer SR Iowa State
 Michael Bishop SR Kansas State
 Aaron Brooks SR Virginia
 Daunte Culpepper SR Central Florida
 Jon Denton JR UNLV
 John Fitzgerald JR Tulsa
 Joe Germaine SR Ohio State
 Joe Hamilton JR Georgia Tech
 Brock Huard JR Washington
 Chad Hutchinson SR Stanford
 Corby Jones SR Missouri
 Ryan Kealy SO Arizona State
 Shaun King SR Tulane
 Brian Kuklick SR Wake Forest
 Graham Leigh SR New Mexico
 Tony Lindsay SO Oklahoma State
 Donovan McNabb SR Syracuse
 Chad Pennington JR Marshall
 Chris Redman JR Louisville

Running Backs

Shaun Alexander JR Alabama
 Demario Brown JR Utah State
 Trung Canidate JR Arizona
 Mike Cloud SR Boston College
 Toney Converse SO Tulane
 Darren Davis JR Iowa State
 Autry Denson SR Notre Dame
 Aaron Harris JR Penn State
 Dwayne Harris SR Toledo
 Sedric Irvin SR Michigan State
 Terry Jackson SR Florida
 Edgerrin James JR Miami
 LaMont Jordan SO Maryland
 Jamal Lewis SO Tennessee
 Stacey Mack SR Temple
 Denvis Manns SR New Mexico State
 Kevin McDougal JR Colorado State
 Travis Minor SO Florida State
 De'Mond Parker JR Oklahoma
 Michael Perry SR Rice
 Travis Prentice JR Miami (OH)
 J.R. Redmond JR Arizona State
 Ketric Sanford JR Houston
 Robert Sanford SO Western Michigan
 Bobby Ray Tell JR Louisiana Tech
 Damon Washington SR Colorado State
 Ricky Williams SO Texas Tech

Wide Receivers

Karsten Bailey SR Auburn
 D'Wayne Bates SR Northwestern
 David Boston JR Ohio State
 Desmond Clark SR Wake Forest
 Lavorn Colclough SR Marshall
 Troy Edwards SR Louisiana Tech
 Shawn Foreman SR West Virginia
 Sherrod Gideon JR Southern Miss
 Jay Hall SR Miami (OH)
 Donnie Hart SR Texas Tech
 Torry Holt SR North Carolina State
 Lenzie Jackson SR Arizona State
 Billy Miller SR USC
 Dee Miller SR Ohio State
 Terry Murphy SR Pittsburgh
 Geoff Noisy SR Nevada
 Peerless Price SR Tennessee
 Damon Savage JR Tulsa
 Marcus Stiggers JR Colorado
 Tai Streets JR Michigan
 Reggie Wayne SO Miami
 Damon Williams SR UNLV
 Craig Yeast SR Kentucky

Tight Ends

Kendrick Bates JR Arizona State
 Alex Crumpler JR North Carolina
 Daniel Franks SO Miami
 Ibn Green JR Louisville
 Mike Grieb SR UCLA
 Derrick Spiller SR Texas A&M

Offensive Linemen

Ben Adams SR Texas
 Jeff Backus SO Michigan
 John Blick JR Penn State
 Doug Brzezinski SR Boston College
 Brandon Burlsworth SR Arkansas
 Anthony Cesario SR Colorado State
 Travis Clardige JR USC
 Kris Farris JR UCLA
 Jeff Flows SR Wake Forest
 Ben Hamilton JR Minnesota
 Chris McIntosh SR Wisconsin
 Danny Moore SR East Carolina
 Jamar Nesbit SR South Carolina
 Craig Page SR Georgia Tech
 Solomon Page JR West Virginia
 Zac Piller SR Florida
 Mike Rosenthal SR Notre Dame
 Chris Samuels JR Alabama
 John Tait JR BYU
 Brian Uhl SR Cincinnati

Place-kickers

Adam Abrams SR USC
 Garrett Courtney SR North Texas
 Matt Davenport SR Wisconsin
 Brian Gowins SR Northwestern
 Shayne Graham JR Virginia Tech
 Jeff Hall SR Tennessee
 Brian Hazelwood SR Mississippi State
 Sebastian Janikowski SO Florida State
 Sims Lenhardt JR Duke
 Rian Lindell JR Washington State
 Brad Palazzo SR Tulane
 Jay Taylor JR West Virginia

Kick Returners

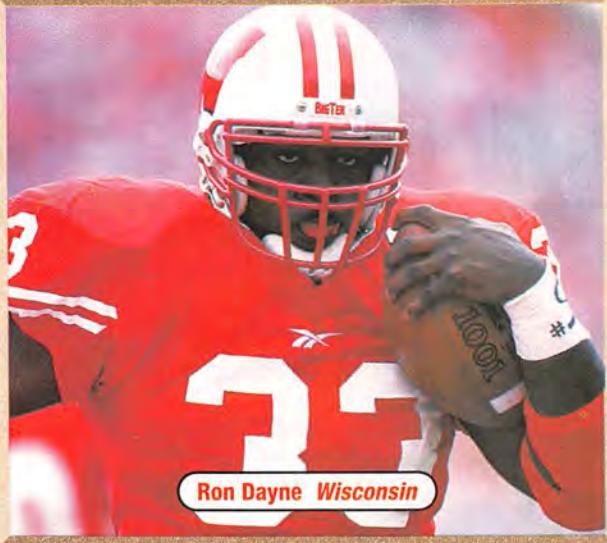
Tinker Keck SR Cincinnati
 Ben Kelly SO Colorado
 Scottie Montgomery JR Duke
 Hank Poteat JR Pittsburgh
 Quinton Spotwood JR Syracuse
 Reggie Stephens SR Rutgers

Defensive Linemen

Scott Blank SR North Texas
 Marquis Bowling SR Memphis
 Inoke Brecksterfield SR Oregon State
 Tom Burke SR Wisconsin
 Roosevelt Colvin JR Purdue
 Chris Combs JR Duke
 Antonio Dingle SR Virginia
 Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila JR San Diego St.
 Kelly Gregg SR Oklahoma
 Gary Holmes SR Washington State
 Chris Hood SR Alabama
 Aaron Humphrey SR Texas
 Luke Johnson JR SMU
 Brad Martin SR BYU
 Mike Pringle SR North Carolina
 Montae Raegor SR Texas Tech
 Rob Renes SR Michigan
 John Thornton SR West Virginia

Linebackers

Rahim Abdullah JR Clemson
 JoJuan Armour SR Miami (OH)
 Brendon Ayanbadejo SR UCLA
 Matt Beck JR California
 Marcus Bell JR Arizona
 Phil Clarke SR Pittsburgh
 Tony D'Amato SR Utah State
 Jay Foreman SR Nebraska
 Barry Gardner SR Northwestern
 Phil Glover SR Utah
 Lamont Green SR Florida State
 Matt Hughes SR Iowa
 Dhani Jones JR Michigan
 Jeff Kelly SR Kansas State
 Jeff Kerr JR East Carolina
 Nate Kvamme SR Colorado State
 Brad Martin SR BYU
 Kory Minor SR Notre Dame
 Kelvin Moses SR Wake Forest



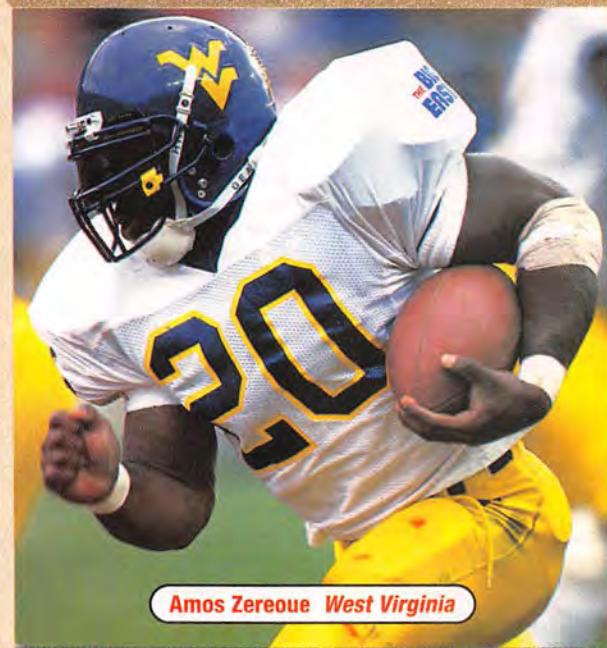
Ron Dayne Wisconsin



Champ Bailey Georgia



Brandon Short Penn St.



Amos Zereoue West Virginia

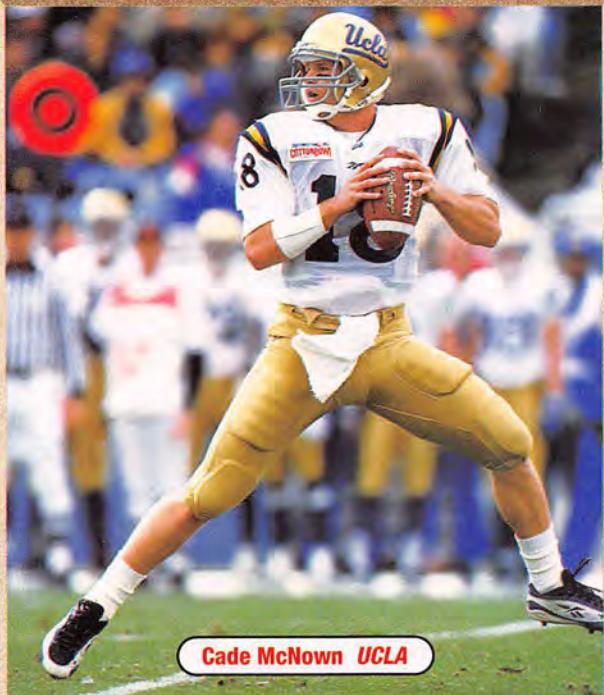
ALL-AMERICA TEAM



Dat Nguyen Texas A&M



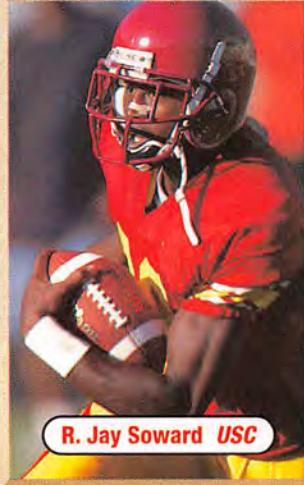
Andre Weathers Michigan



Cade McNown UCLA



Mike Rucker Nebraska



R. Jay Soward USC

Hannibal Navies SR Colorado
Wali Rainer SR Virginia
Peter Simon JR Oregon
Mark Simoneau JR Kansas State
Gary Stills SR West Virginia
Sam Sword JR Michigan
Lester Towns JR Washington
Al Wilson SR Tennessee
Kenyatta Wright JR Oklahoma State

Donovan McNabb SR Syracuse
Cade McNown SR UCLA

Doak Walker Award

Ron Dayne JR Wisconsin
Aubrey Denson SR Notre Dame
Kevin Faulk SR LSU
Sedric Irvin SR Michigan State
Edgerrin James JR Miami
Jamal Lewis SO Tennessee
De'Mond Parker JR Oklahoma
J.R. Redmond JR Arizona State
Ricky Williams SR Texas
Amos Zereoue JR West Virginia

Biletnikoff Award

Eugene Baker SR Kent
D'Wayne Bates SR Northwestern
David Boston JR Ohio State
Troy Edwards SR Louisiana Tech
Torry Holt SR North Carolina State
Lenzie Jackson SR Arizona State
Geoff Noisy SR Nevada
Damon Savage JR Tulsa
R. Jay Soward JR USC
Marcus Stiggers JR Colorado
Troy Walters SR Stanford
Peter Warrick JR Florida State
Craig Yeast SR Kentucky

Bednarik Award

Larry Atkins SR UCLA
Inoke Breckerfield SR Oregon State
Chris Claiborne JR USC
Barry Gardner SR Northwestern
Aaron Humphrey SR Texas
Andy Katzenmoyer JR Ohio State
Jevon Kearse JR Florida
Daylon McCutcheon SR USC
Dat Nguyen SR Texas A&M
Anthony Poindexter SR Virginia
Johnny Rutledge SR Florida

Awards Candidates

Heisman Trophy & Walter Camp Player of the Year

Michael Bishop SR Kansas State
Tim Couch JR Kentucky
Ron Dayne JR Wisconsin
Aubrey Denson SR Notre Dame
Kevin Faulk SR LSU
Sedric Irvin SR Michigan State
Donovan McNabb SR Syracuse
Cade McNown SR UCLA
De'Mond Parker JR Oklahoma
J.R. Redmond JR Arizona State
Ricky Williams SR Texas
Amos Zereoue JR West Virginia

Butkus Award

Chris Claiborne JR USC
Barry Gardner SR Northwestern
Andy Katzenmoyer JR Ohio State
Jevon Kearse JR Florida
Kory Minor SR Notre Dame
Dat Nguyen SR Texas A&M
Dusty Renfro SR Texas
Johnny Rutledge SR Florida
Brandon Short JR Penn State
Gary Stills SR West Virginia
Kenyatta Wright JR Oklahoma State

Thorp Award

Larry Atkins SR UCLA
Champ Bailey JR Georgia
Dre Bly JR North Carolina
Teako Brown SR Florida
Fernando Bryant SR Alabama
Antwan Edwards SR Clemson
Arturo Freeman SR South Carolina
Chris McAllister SR Arizona
Daylon McCutcheon SR USC
Damon Moore SR Ohio State
Anthony Poindexter SR Virginia
Antoine Winfield SR Ohio State

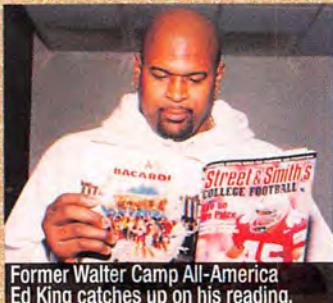
Lou Groza Award

Adam Abrams SR USC
Brian Gowins SR Northwestern
Shayne Graham JR Virginia Tech
Martin Gramatica SR Kansas State
Jeff Hall SR Tennessee
Brian Hazelwood SR Mississippi State
Sebastian Janikowski SO Florida State
Sims Lenhardt JR Duke
Brad Palazzo SR Tulane
Chris Sailor SR UCLA
Jay Taylor JR West Virginia

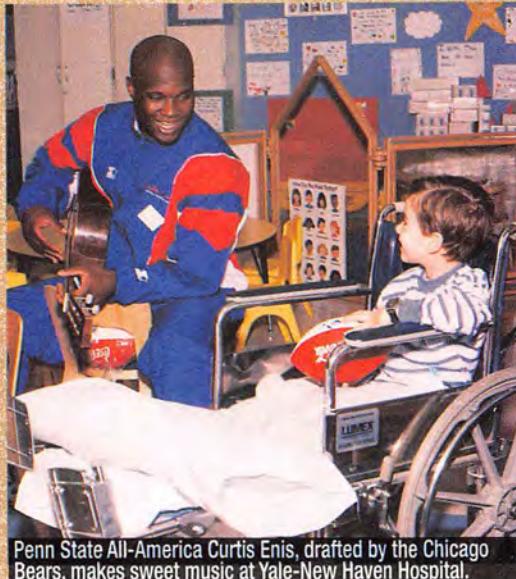
Among the highlights of the Walter Camp Football Foundation weekend (February 12-15) were a special "Stay in School" rally for New Haven middle school students that featured Walter Camp alumni as guest speakers and a charity basketball game in which All-America and NFL players participated. During the weekend, the players also took time out to visit with youngsters at a school for handicapped children and at Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Capping the weekend was the national awards banquet at historic Yale University Commons.



The San Diego Chargers' Aaron Taylor spends some time with a youngster at a school for handicapped children.



Former Walter Camp All-America Ed King catches up on his reading.



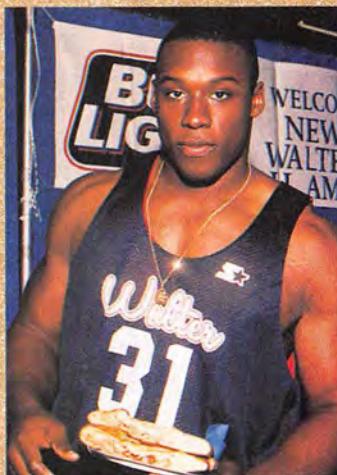
Penn State All-America Curtis Enis, drafted by the Chicago Bears, makes sweet music at Yale-New Haven Hospital.



Andre Wadsworth, Grant Wistrom, Ed Ellis, and Greg Guest (l. to r.) with a young friend at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.



Florida State star and Arizona Cardinal Andre Wadsworth is rewarded for his visit to Yale-New Haven Hospital.



Andre Wadsworth enjoys a pregame snack before hitting the basketball court.



Young fan Kyle Maynard (center) is surrounded by a host of current and former All-America honorees who competed in the Walter Camp alumni basketball game.

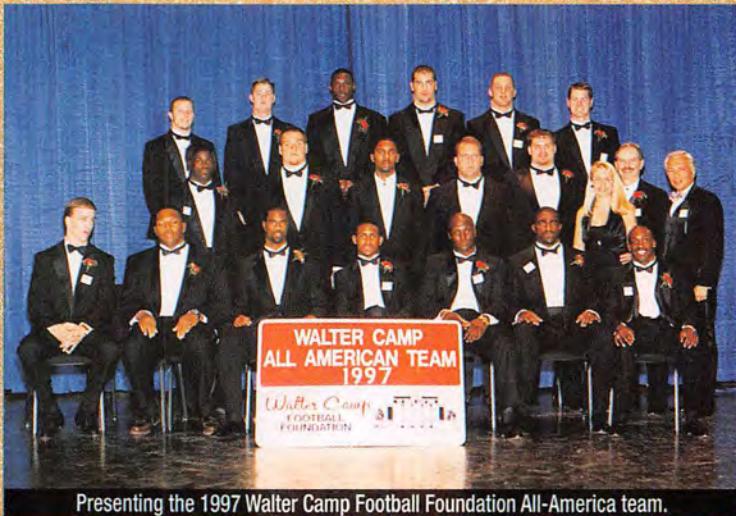


Football (and would-be hoop) stars O.J. McDuffie, Dre Bly, Flozell Adams, Ricky Williams, and Aaron Beasley (left to right) at charity basketball game.

happenings!



Walter Camp's Tom Lally (center) with Ed King, Andre Wadsworth, Calvin Hill, Jim Plunkett, Aaron Taylor, and Langston Rogers (l. to r.).



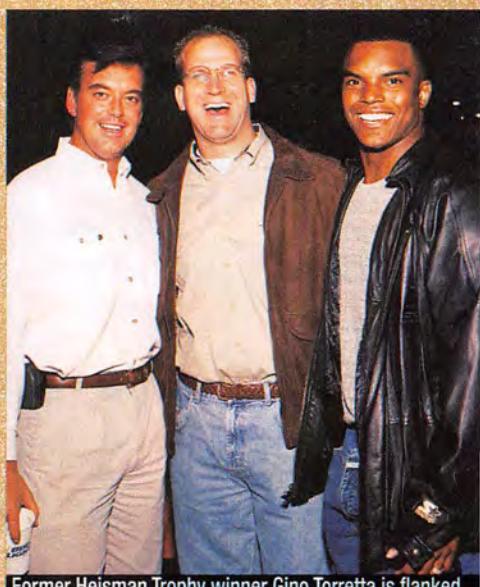
Presenting the 1997 Walter Camp Football Foundation All-America team.



The Walter Camp award winners (left to right): Jim Plunkett, Steve Largent, Charles Woodson, Calvin Hill, Kyle McIntosh, and Lloyd Carr.



Michigan's Charles Woodson, the 1997 Walter Camp Player of the Year.



Former Heisman Trophy winner Gino Torretta is flanked by NFL star Jeff Burris (right) and Kurt Evans of Starter.



Jim Plunkett (left) talks shop with Peyton Manning.



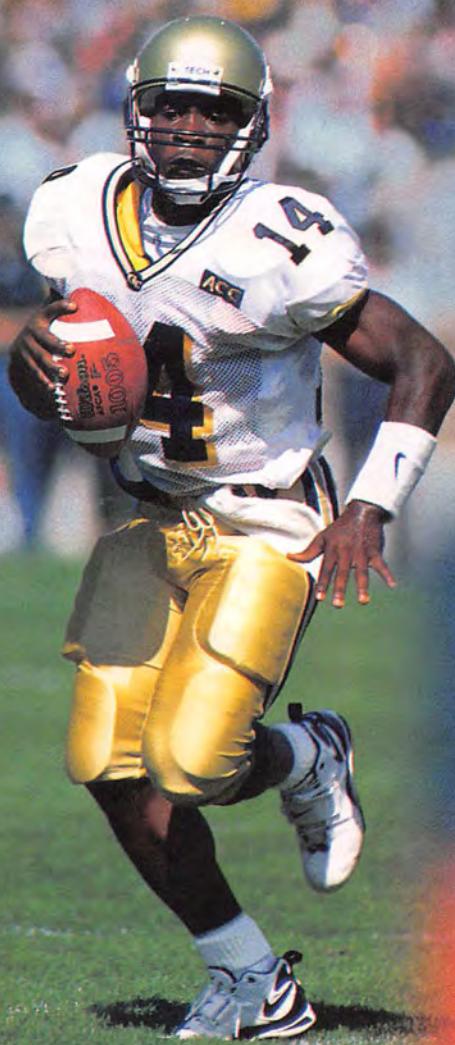
Michigan's Lloyd Carr receives Coach of the Year award from Tom Lally of Walter Camp (l.) and Street & Smith's Sal Schiliro.



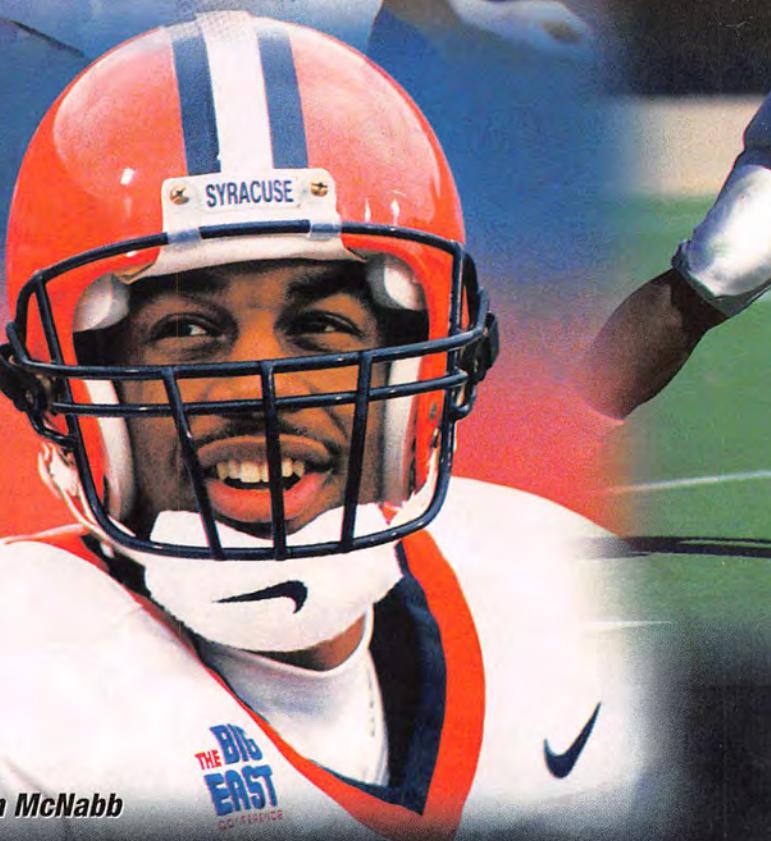
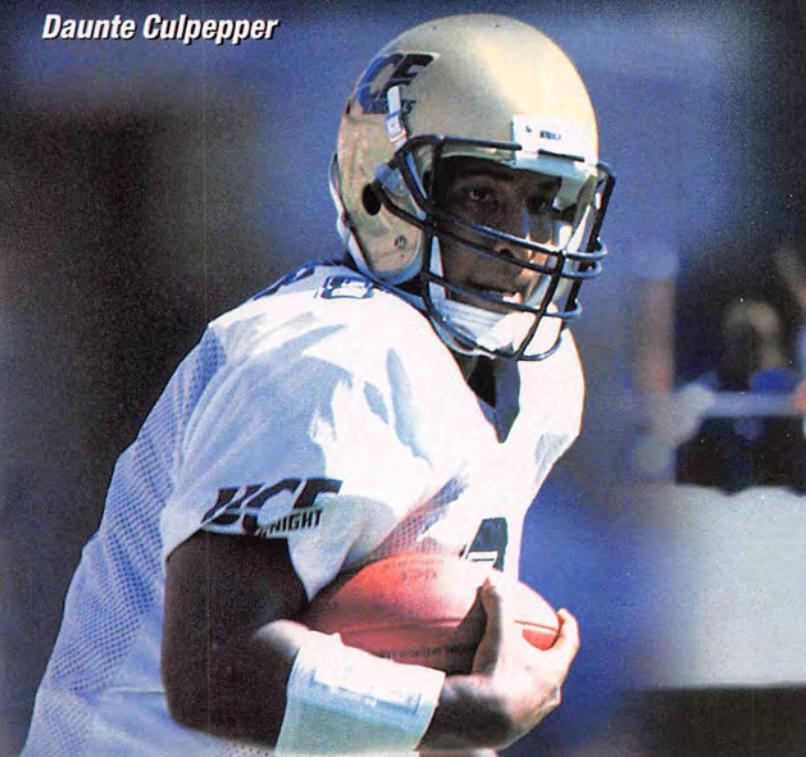
Hall of Famer Steve Largent spoke eloquently at the awards dinner.

SLASH

Daunte Culpepper



Joe Hamilton



Donovan McNabb

FLOOD

Some of the best college quarterbacks this fall have the versatility to win in a variety of ways.

by Larry Felser **BUFFALO NEWS**



Michael Bishop

Option quarterbacks are unlikely to end up on top of the NFL scouts' premium-prospect list. That's a status reserved for classic passers such as Kentucky's Tim Couch and Washington's Brock Huard. They may not even get serious consideration in the Heisman Trophy vote. At least their predecessors have not done well in that respect.

If you want to compete in college football, though, it's a good idea to have a quarterback who has the skills to win games with his feet, his quickness, and his unpredictability, as well as with his arm. Some of the best quarterbacks to be seen this fall come fully equipped with those weapons.

Michael Bishop

Take Michael Bishop of Kansas State. He was an afterthought on the morning of the last Fiesta Bowl, a stranger from the Plains, overshadowed by his opponent, Donovan McNabb of Syracuse, which always seems to win its bowl games. By nightfall, Bishop held the Fiesta's offensive player of the game award. Five months earlier, Bishop had come to K-State as a relative stranger from national junior college champion Blinn (TX) Community College and almost immediately became the quarterback and team leader KSU coach Bill Snyder was looking for.

"Bishop can turn a bad play into a good play in a hurry," was the personal scouting report delivered by Willie Fritz, Bishop's junior college coach.

Syracuse, which had won eight consecutive games (and seven consecutive bowls), will second that appraisal. In less than nine minutes of the second quarter, Bishop blew the Orangemen out of contention. During that span, he passed 19 yards for a touchdown, ran 12 yards for another, and then passed 28 yards for a third score as Kansas State took a 21-3 lead that Syracuse made a futile attempt to overcome. Bishop finished with 317 yards passing and four touchdowns and 73 yards on the ground, including the touchdown run.

"I think I made a statement," said Bishop. Since Kansas State finished 11-1 (giving the quarterback a 35-1 record over the past three seasons, including two with Blinn) and returns as one of the nation's top teams this fall, the statement Bishop made was to Heisman voters.

At 6-1 and 205 pounds, Bishop gives the appearance of a rugged, slashing tailback, a player so strong he could rip away from tacklers to create unlikely first downs. He was completing about 45 percent of his passes until the Fiesta Bowl.

"We knew we were going to have to throw against Syracuse," said Snyder, "because they are not a team you just knock around all day."

There was no question Bishop had the arm strength. Ron Hudson, Kansas State's offensive coordinator, who coached Steve Beuerlein at Notre Dame and Bobby Hoying at Ohio State, says Bishop's arm "is about as strong as I've ever been around." There are those who swear they have seen Bishop throw the ball more than 90 yards in the air.

Now that Kansas State has recruited the top junior college running back, Frank Murphy, Bishop can afford to hone his passing as his team takes aim at Nebraska's perch atop the Big 12. For a brief time last winter, it appeared that quest could be hampered when Bishop was arrested in a Manhattan, Kansas, night spot after being misidentified as a participant in a brawl. The charges were later dropped.

when Bishop was not only cleared but discovered to have actually tried to stop the brawl, according to the versions of some witnesses.

Donovan McNabb

Meanwhile, McNabb spent the off-season renewing his commitment to restore Syracuse to the elite. When McNabb led his team into spring practice, it was the first time he did it as a full-time football player. In the three previous years, McNabb would come to spring practice directly from the basketball court, where he was a member of the Orange's national power. He dropped basketball after the last football season.

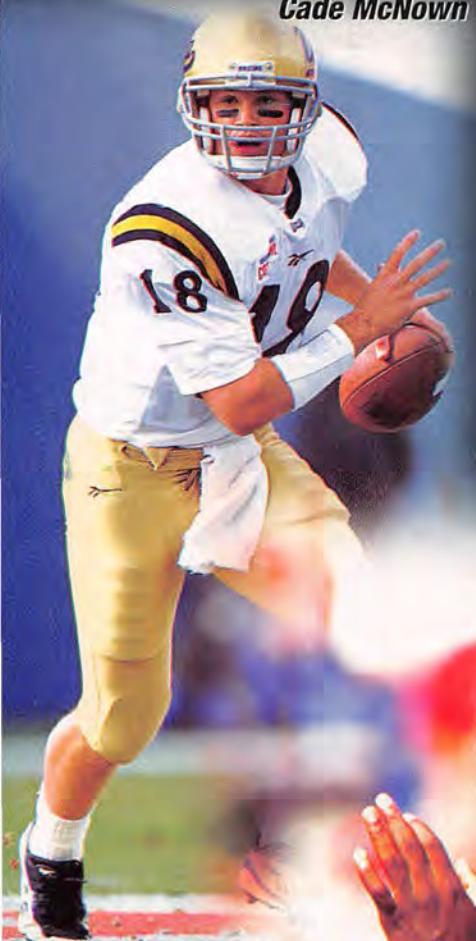
"He's become more of a leader now," says tailback Dee Brown. "You can see his growth as a player and a person. He wants this season to be the

best Syracuse has ever had."

McNabb has plenty to prove. First, there was the Fiesta Bowl embarrassment, in which he threw 23 incompletions. In four of his last five games he completed less than 50 percent of his passes. His 54.7 completion rate a year ago was the lowest of his career. There is also the Heisman debate. McNabb was included in such discussions last year, but it never got too serious.

The most humbling moment may have come after McNabb began talking publicly about passing up his senior year of eligibility to enter the NFL draft. The pro scouts responded with yawns. McNabb needs to work on his down-field passing game to qualify for a serious NFL contract. He will not want for quality helpers. Quinton Spotwood heads a cast of good receivers; Rob Konrad, if he's healthy, may be college football's best blocking fullback.

Cade McNown



Bobby Newcombe

Cade McNown

Maybe Cade McNown, UCLA's brilliant lefty, shouldn't be included with this group of versatile quarterbacks. McNown's reputation now rests on his passing. Consider the evidence from last season: a school-record 400-yard day against Tennessee, a school-record five touchdown passes (by the half) in the shocking 66-3 rout of Texas, three touchdown passes in the 52-28 rocking of Washington, three more against crosstown rival USC, and two in the comeback victory over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl. McNown does not throw many interceptions (6).

McNown's notoriety as a passer coincides with the elevation of Bob Toledo, UCLA's creative offensive mastermind, to head coach in 1996. McNown threw 12 touchdowns as a sophomore and doubled that for another school record as a junior.

McNown, however, was once renowned for his ability to produce first downs with his feet. In the last six games of his freshman season, when he became comfortable with the starter's role, he ran for 281 yards, an average of almost six yards per carry. In the victory over Washington last fall, he ran for 44 yards, including 11 for a touchdown. He won his third game against USC largely on the strength of his ability to escape the Trojan pass rush. In the Cotton Bowl he made a 360-degree spin move during his 20-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. That put the Bruins ahead of the Aggies for the first time. He also had a 76-yard punt on a quick kick.

"He's the complete package," says Toledo. "Strong arm, quick feet, and outstanding leadership qualities."

Daunte Culpepper

Just two years into Division I-A, Central Florida became known as the "nice-try" kids last season for scaring much bigger, established football programs. The Golden Knights lost to Ole Miss, South Carolina, Mississippi State, and Nebraska by a total of just 24 points. All four games were played on the road. The competitive losses can be summed up in two words: Daunte Culpepper.

Culpepper was Mr. Florida Football in high school, playing for Vanguard High in Ocala, better known as Florida horse country. He is a 6-5, 240-pounder who finished fourth in the nation in total offense with an average of 320 yards per game. He is a top NFL prospect for 1999.

For confirmation on Culpepper's skills, check with Nebraska. Central Florida led the Cornhuskers three different times in the first half, including 17-14 at intermission.

"You're not going to find many quarterbacks who have the combination of size, speed, and the accuracy he has in his arm," said Grant Wistrom, the Huskers' All-America pass rusher. "He's one of the best in the country."

There was an expectation that Culpepper would pass up his senior year to enter the 1998 NFL draft, but he surprised many by staying.

"This program is building so fast I felt it needed me more than the NFL

needed me," he explained. "I probably need another year to hone my skills and become a better player. My dream is not to just go to the NFL, but to be successful there."

Mike Kruczak reportedly turned down an offer to become Jim Mora's quarterback coach with the Indianapolis Colts in order to take over as Central Florida's new head coach. He says he'll give Culpepper more flexibility in his senior season.

Corby Jones

If Culpepper scared Nebraska last year, Corby Jones of Missouri terrified the Cornhuskers. It took an end-zone gymnastics feat for Nebraska to avoid the upset of the year, a result that would have killed any possibility of a national championship.

Jones is primarily a running quarterback whose passing skills improved slowly each season. Nevertheless, Missouri fans were launching 1998 Heisman Trophy trial balloons for Jones at the same time the 1997 award ballots were being tabulated. It's understandable. Jones led the Tigers to their first winning season and first bowl game since 1983. And even though it was a near miss, the game against 29-point favorite Nebraska will be remembered forever in Missouri.

With little more than a minute to play, Jones threw a touchdown pass which put Missouri ahead 38-31. It was his third scoring pass of the game and his fourth touchdown.

Starting from their own 33-yard line, the Cornhuskers moved to the Missouri 12 with seven seconds to go to set up what Tigers coach Larry Smith would later refer to as "one stinking play." Scott Frost threw a hard pass to Shevin Wiggins of the Huskers. As Wiggins was hit in the end zone, the ball caromed off his chest. A Missouri safety narrowly missed intercepting the ball on its descent. Instead, Wiggins inadvertently kicked it. Just before it reached the turf, Matt Davison caught it to tie the game for Nebraska. The Huskers won in overtime.

Some players would have been devastated by such a loss. What it did for Jones was stiffen his resolve. "If you start accepting losses," he said, "you're never going to go anywhere."

The Tigers went somewhere, winning their final game against Baylor and then advancing to face Colorado State in the Holiday Bowl, where they were defeated 35-24.



Corby Jones

Joe Hamilton

Georgia Tech's Joe Hamilton, at 5-10, is the shortest quarterback in this class, but he grows on you. Ask Don Nehlen, West Virginia's coach, who spoke of the improvement during Hamilton's sophomore season, just before the Mountaineers met the Yellow Jackets in the Carquest Bowl.

"Early in the season he was about 10 to 15 percent of their offense," said Nehlen, "then 20 to 25 percent. Now it's 60 percent."

In the last four regular-season games, Hamilton, previously known merely as a dangerous scrambler, passed for 1,172 yards, six touchdowns, and no interceptions. The Carquest Bowl itself was a shootout, with Hamilton underlining Nehlen's analysis.

With the score tied at 7, Hamilton completed a 17-yard pass on third down to keep the drive alive. Then he scored on a 30-yard quarterback draw to put Georgia Tech ahead. In the fourth quarter, he converted two third downs that helped preserve the Yellow Jackets' 35-30 victory. He passed for 274 yards, rushed for 82, scored two touchdowns, and passed for another, for which he was named the Most Valuable Player. Hamilton comes into the 1998 season with a streak of 151 passes without an interception.

Bobby Newcombe

Nebraska's Bobby Newcombe has completed one pass in his career, but he's the wild card between Kansas State's Bishop and Missouri's Jones in the Big 12, maybe the wild card in the national quarterback race. He succeeds Scott Frost as the Cornhuskers' offensive leader in his sophomore season.

If Kordell Stewart of the Pittsburgh Steelers deserves to be known as "Slash," then Newcombe has "Slash/Slash" possibilities. When Nebraska overwhelmed Oklahoma last season, Newcombe caught three passes for 88 yards, returned a punt 57 yards, and ran twice for 19 yards.

After three games as a true freshman backing up Frost and Frankie London, Newcombe had his quarterback future put on hold. "He wasn't going to get much playing time," explained receivers coach Ron Brown, "We knew he had a lot of ability and we wanted to get him on the field."

Nebraska fans are comparing him to Johnny Rodgers, the versatile Cornhusker who won the '72 Heisman.

"My heart has always been at quarterback," says one of the most highly recruited quarterbacks of 1996. With the vacancy sign out at the position, Husker fans may end up comparing Newcombe to Frost and Tommy Frazier.

National

BY RANDALL MELL
SUN-SENTINEL OF SOUTH FLORIDA

This is the year college football fans, fed up with co-national champions, have all eagerly awaited. The super alliance, the force that promised to clean up the bowl matchup mess by assuring that No. 1 meets No. 2 at season's end to decide the national championship on the field, brings us the new college football championship series this year.

For the first time, the Rose Bowl joins the mix. That means the Pac-10 and Big Ten champs are now eligible for a super-alliance matchup at the Fiesta Bowl, site of this season's No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown on January 4.

Championship bowl matchups that could not be played before are now possible. Remember when Miami and Washington both went undefeated and shared the national championship in 1991? Washington was locked into the Rose Bowl and couldn't meet Miami. Under this super-alliance plan, the 'Canes and Huskies could have played in what would have been one of the most memorable bowl finales in the history of college football.

And how about last year's frustrating conclusion? Michigan was locked into the Rose Bowl and could not play Nebraska for the national title. But under this new format, the Wolverines and Cornhuskers would have met to decide the true national champion.

You say you can't wait? Well, unfortunately, you still might not be satisfied with what unfolds at season's end.

The super alliance could still give us a disputed

national championship, an unresolved final picture, a controversial conclusion to another unsatisfying New Year's bowl menu.

What if Michigan, Florida State, and LSU all end up undefeated at the end of the regular season? Who plays in the Fiesta Bowl then? It could happen. It has happened. Auburn, Nebraska, and West Virginia all ended the 1993 regular season undefeated.

Or what if Michigan is the only undefeated team when bowl matchups are made, but Florida State, LSU, Nebraska, and UCLA each have just one loss? What happens then?

The same thing that always happens. Somebody is left out of the championship game. Somebody whose fans will proclaim their team the best in the land. If the coaches poll and media poll choose different No. 1 teams at season's end, it will feel as if nothing really changed.

Here's the thing. The alliance never promised a true national champion. It only promised a better system for making bowl matchups. It is not perfect, but what the super alliance gives us is a path to the ultimate solution. It gives us the framework for a possible playoff. If Division I-A is ever going to have a playoff, it will evolve out of the super alliance's ability to preserve the bowl system by turning bowl games into quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship sites.

Stay tuned. The college football landscape has changed so dramatically that nothing that happens as we near the next century should surprise us.

TOP 25	
1. Ohio State	2
2. Florida State	1
3. Florida	9
4. UCLA	3
5. LSU	X
6. Nebraska	X
7. Arizona State	X
8. Colorado State	X
9. Kansas State	X
10. Michigan	X
11. Virginia	X
12. Tennessee	X
13. North Carolina	X
14. Penn State	X
15. Texas	X
16. Auburn	X
17. Arizona	4
18. Texas A&M	X
19. West Virginia	X
20. Notre Dame	X
21. Southern Miss	X
22. Missouri	X
23. Georgia Tech	X
24. Syracuse	X
25. Washington	X

Strike the Pose

The early favorites to win the Heisman Trophy:

1. Texas senior tailback **Ricky Williams** led the nation in rushing (1,893 yards) and is the top returning Heisman vote-getter.
2. LSU senior tailback **Kevin Faulk** just needs to stay healthy an entire year and excel in a couple of national-spotlight games to showcase his game-breaking all-purpose skills.
3. Syracuse senior quarterback **Donovan McNabb** will become a front-runner with his passing and scrambling skills if he beats Michigan on the road in September and can get the Orangemen into the national championship hunt by late November.
4. Washington quarterback **Brock Huard** (left) has all the skills the pro scouts love.
5. Georgia cornerback **Champ Bailey** will follow in the footsteps of Heisman winner Charles Woodson and do double duty as a wide receiver.



Teams on the Rise

LSU: The nation's best backfield, an experienced quarterback, and a talented offensive line make the Tigers tough to beat in 1998. Kevin Faulk and Co. are bidding to win the SEC title game and then see what happens.

Kansas State: The Wildcats must beat Nebraska to move to the next level, and they are good enough to make it close this fall.

Georgia: The Bulldogs are talented in the trenches on both sides of the ball and could pose a challenge to LSU for the SEC title.

Arizona: Sophomore quarterback Ortege Jenkins leads the Wildcats' most explosive offense in a long time.

West Virginia: Heisman hopeful Amos Zereoue will become the school's career rushing leader this fall, and there is plenty of talent around him. How quickly the defense develops will determine how high the Mountaineers climb.

Preview

Best Receivers

1. North Carolina: Seniors Na Brown and L.C. Stevens (below) and junior Jason Peace will make cornerbacks look foolish on weekend highlight shows this fall. The trio combined for more than 130 catches last year.



2. Ohio State: Woody Hayes might have scrapped his three-yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust mentality with these receivers. Junior David Boston had a school-record 73 receptions and 14 TDs, and senior Dee Miller had 58 catches. They're both big, physical targets who can run. Sophomores Ken-Yon Rambo and Reggie German wait in the wings.

3. Florida State: Peter Warrick, Peter Warrick, Peter Warrick...O.K., there's only one on the Seminole roster, but Warrick will seem like he's everywhere with all the big plays he makes. Coach Bobby Bowden has juniors Laveranues Coles and Ron Dugans complementing Warrick.

4. Arizona State: Seniors Lenzi Jackson, Ricky Boyer, Kenny Mitchell, and Creig Spann make the Wildcats deep, quick, and dangerous while junior tight end Kendrick Bates is among the nation's best.

5. Syracuse: Defensive coordinators will spend Saturdays afraid that they will not be able to stop Donovan McNabb from finding junior Quinton Spotwood and senior Kevin Johnson racing free and deep into their secondaries. Both receivers averaged more than 19 yards a catch.

Very "Special Team" Players



- 1. Syracuse junior Quinton Spotwood** tied the NCAA record with four punt returns for touchdowns last fall.
- 2. Cincinnati's Tinker Keck** (left) returned a record-tying four punts for TDs, two in one game (vs. Louisville).
- 3. Florida State's Peter Warrick** returned four punts for TDs, too, but three (all over 70 yards) were called back by penalties.
- 4. Kansas State senior place-kicker Martin Gramatica** returns after making 19 of 20 field goals and winning the Lou Groza award.
- 5. North Texas junior John Baker** is the leading returning punter in the nation after averaging 47.18 yards a year ago.

Best Secondary

1. Ohio State: Wideouts find that shaking senior Antoine Winfield is harder than outrunning their own shadows. He's relentless, and one of the nation's best cornerbacks. Winfield's got lots of help with senior strong safety Damon Moore (top right), junior cornerback Ahmed Plummer, and junior free safety Gary Berry all returning. They helped the Buckeyes rank No. 2 nationally in pass defense.

2. Michigan: Charles Woodson is gone, but the Wolverines' defensive backfield will be every bit as tenacious this fall. Senior strong safety Marcus Ray was overshadowed by Woodson. He rejoins senior cornerback Andre Weathers and junior free safety Tommy Hendricks on this hard-nosed unit.

3. Nebraska: Junior cornerback Ralph Brown is among three returning regulars on what may be Nebraska's best position unit this fall. Brown has a school-record 21 career pass breakups and six interceptions. Junior rover Mike Brown and sophomore cornerback Erwin Swiney are also back.

4. Kansas State: Three returning starters are reunited on a unit that allowed just four TD passes in '97 and ranked No. 1 in pass defense in the Big 12 and No. 5 nationally: junior free safety Lamar Chapman, sophomore strong safety Jarrod Cooper, and sophomore cornerback Dyshod Carter.

5. UCLA: Strong safety Larry Atkins (bottom right), a Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist and a second-team All-America, returns, as do cornerbacks Marques Anderson and Jason Bell. Free safety Eric Whitfield replaces Shaun Williams, the New York Giants' top pick.



National Preview

Sleeper Teams

Virginia: With nine defensive starters back and quarterback Aaron Brooks (below) and tailback Thomas Jones leading the offense, the Cavs could shock somebody.

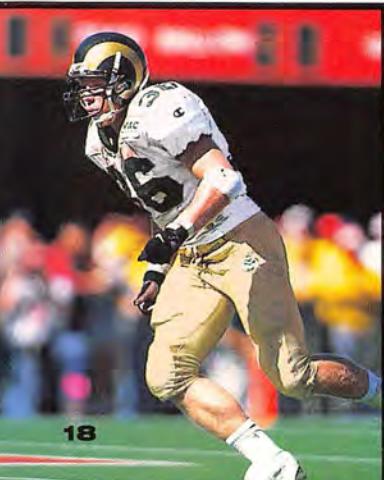


Tulane: Second-year coach Tommy Bowden has gifted quarterback Shaun King making things happen in his explosive offense.

Central Florida: Quarterback Daunte Culpepper and a less daunting schedule could make the Golden Knights bowl-bound.

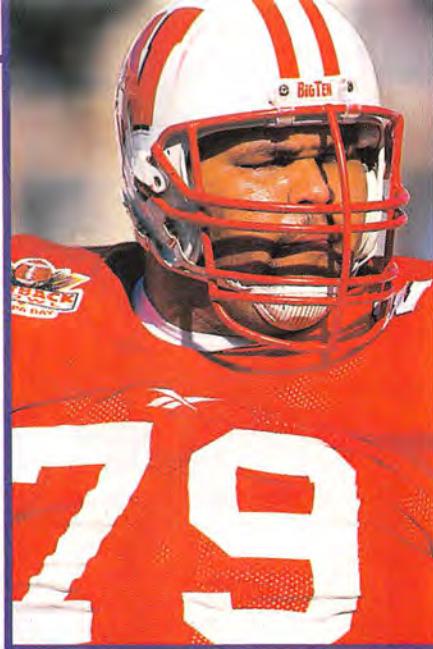
Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons won five games, while three of their six losses were by a combined 11 points last year. Wake looks able to win a couple of those close ones this fall.

Oklahoma State: Quarterback Tony Lindsay is superb, but this defense could make Oklahoma State a contender in the Big 12.



Best Offensive Line

1. Michigan: Defenders will feel as though they are caught in a cattle stampede when the Wolverines run over their right side. That's where a pair of 6-7 behemoths, senior tackle Jon Jansen and junior guard Chris Ziemann, will be clearing the way. Four starters return.
2. Wisconsin: If moviemakers had planted Aaron Gibson (right) on the city's borders, Godzilla might not have reached Manhattan. Gibson is college football's monster lineman at 6-7 and 368 pounds. He's also a dominating right tackle in a line that returns intact.
3. Tennessee: Tackle Chad Clifton and guard Spencer Riley should blow open plenty of holes for running back Jamal Lewis on a front that returns four starters.
4. Georgia: Seniors Matt Stinchcomb and Chris Terry are twin-tower bookends at tackle, maybe the best tandem in the land. The Bulldogs should run confidently behind this line.
5. Arizona State: Senior center Grey Ruegamer greets defenders like a fist in the face. He's the dominating focal point on a line that returns four regulars, including sophomore left tackle Marvel Smith.



Best Linebackers



1. Florida: It may seem as though the Gators are playing with a half-dozen linebackers on the field, but there are only three there at a time. Junior Jevon Kearse and senior Mike Peterson on the outside and senior Johnny Rutledge (left) in the middle play with the intensity of a swarm of angry bees.

2. Kansas State: Since seniors Jeff Kelly and Travis Ochs and junior Mark Simoneau arrived, K-State maintenance crews have taken to sweeping loose teeth off the KSU stadium surface during TV time-outs. O.K., not really. But with Kelly anchoring the middle, these guys make some jarring hits.

3. Ohio State: Junior middle linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer, who won the Butkus Award as a sophomore, has 14 career sacks and six interceptions. Senior Jerry Rudzinski will be a three-year starter and sophomore Na'il Diggs had six sacks in a reserve role a year ago.

4. Michigan: Senior Sam Sword is back after leading the team in tackles the last two seasons, but he's probably moving to the outside. Junior Dhani Jones will return inside with junior Ian Gold and senior Clint Copenhaver wreaking havoc in Michigan's situational fronts.

5. Colorado State: Senior outside linebacker Nate Kvamme had three interceptions against San Jose State, returning two for TDs. Senior Willie Taylor, anchoring the middle, and junior Rick Crowell tackle anything that moves.

Do You Have Some Identification

Below are five standout but relatively anonymous players:

1. Florida senior defensive end **Willie Cohen** gets overshadowed nationally on a unit filled with potential All-Americans, but coaches know how good he is.
2. Northwestern senior middle linebacker **BARRY GARDNER** was originally a walk-on, but he emerged to lead the Big Ten in tackles last fall.
3. Colorado State fullback **KEVIN McDougal** (left) was the other 1,000-yard rusher in the Rams' backfield.
4. Purdue senior defensive end **Rosevelt Colvin** had 12.5 sacks last season and is already the school's unofficial career leader.
5. Arizona junior receiver **Dennis Northcutt** caught 58 passes a year ago and scored nine TDs. He'll top that if he stays healthy this fall.

Best Offensive Backfield

1. LSU: Hey, the New Orleans Saints would love to have the backfield the Tigers have this year. Senior all-purpose threat Kevin Faulk, junior Cecil "The Diesel" Collins, junior Rondell Mealey, and senior Kendall Cleveland are all capable of 1,000 yards as tailbacks if there were enough balls to go around. It's an embarrassment of riches, and senior quarterback Herb Tyler complements them nicely.

2. Syracuse: Two-time Big East offensive player of the year Donovan McNabb (top right) is going for bigger honors this year. The senior threw 20 TDs to six interceptions a year ago and rushed for more than 400 yards. Senior tailback Kyle McIntosh is poised for a 1,000-yard season, and senior fullback Rob Konrad reminds SU faithful of alum Daryl Johnston.

3. Arizona State: Junior tailback J.R. Redmond (bottom right) is so good, his coaches almost refuse to take him off the field. He plays running back, wideout, and safety. He also returns punts, kicks, and overdue library books. Redshirt freshman quarterback Ryan Kealy is gifted, and senior fullback Jeff Pault is one of the nation's best.

4. Kansas State: Senior quarterback Michael Bishop is a winner. He's 35-1 as a collegian (counting two seasons of junior college), and he was the Fiesta Bowl offensive MVP. Speedy JC transfer Frank Murphy is poised to make a quick impression.

5. Ohio State: Senior Joe Germaine doesn't have to share the duties at quarterback anymore, and the 1997 Rose Bowl MVP seems eager to make the most of it. Junior tailback Michael Wiley, who alternated with Pepe Pearson last fall, will enjoy more of the spotlight, too, though hard-running senior Joe Montgomery and sophomore Derek Combs make the Buckeyes talented and deep.



WOWSA!

The most exciting players:

1. Central Florida senior quarterback DAUNTE CULPEPPER will have a hard time getting into the Heisman hunt with such little television coverage at UCF, but there is not a more gifted all-around quarterback in the land.

2. Stanford junior TROY WALTERS caught more than 80 passes and 8 TDs as a receiver last year and added two TDs as a punt returner.

3. Michigan State junior SEDRICK IRVIN will make his way to the end zone as a running back, receiver, and kick returner.

4. Georgia Tech junior quarterback JOE HAMILTON passed for over 2,000 yards and rushed for more than 400 while establishing a school record in total offense a year ago.

5. Florida State sophomore running back TRAVIS MINOR is a treat to watch in the open field on swing passes or draw plays.

Best Defensive Line

1. Florida: If they miked players, you might hear opposing offensive linemen whimpering as they break the huddle this fall to line up against the Gators. Senior tackle Ed Chester, junior tackle Reggie McGrew, and senior ends Tim Beauchamp and Willie Cohens are all back after helping Florida set a school record for rushing defense (70.7 yards per game) in '97.

2. Florida State: The Seminoles are so nasty up front, they took out their own quarterback in spring drills. Dan Kendra felt the line's ferocity when he limped out of the spring game with a serious knee injury. Junior tackles Jerry Johnson and Larry Smith, senior end Tony Bryant, and sophomore end Roland Seymour lead a deep front.

3. Michigan State: Big Ten quarterbacks should be warned of the violent nature of the game film on Michigan State's defensive ends. Junior Robaire Smith and senior Dimitrius Underwood combined for 20 sacks last season.

4. North Carolina: The Tar Heels lost a load of talent along their front when Vonnie Holliday and Greg Ellis left, but here's a shocker: They might be better this year with senior ends Ebenezer Ekuban and Mike Pringle and senior tackle Russell Davis poised to make names for themselves.

5. Georgia: They're eight-deep on a unit that shut down two of the most hyped offensive weapons in college football last fall. Seniors Paul Snellings, Antonio Cochran, and Emarlos Leroy and sophomore Marcus Stroud return to a front that held Wisconsin's Ron Dayne to 36 yards rushing and limited Florida's high-powered passing game to under 220 yards.

Best Names in the Game

Earthwind Moreland,
CB, Georgia Southern

Peerless Price,
WR, Tennessee

Drew Brees,
QB, Purdue

Sam Sword,
LB, Michigan

Anthony Midget,
CB, Virginia Tech

Sirr Parker,
RB, Texas A&M

Margin Hooks,
WR, BYU

Mitchell "Fright Night"
Freedman,
S, Arizona State

Geoff Noisy,
WR, Nevada

Faraja Greathouse,
DL, Boise State

Patrick Pass,
RB, Georgia

Cecil "The Diesel"
Collins,
RB, LSU

National Preview

Double Trouble

More and more teams are using their best players on offense and defense. Here are five two-way players to watch:

1. Georgia's **Champ Bailey** is an All-America cornerback, but he'll likely see 30 percent of the team's snaps on offense.

2. North Carolina's **Dré Bly**, another All-America corner, will make a Heisman bid by switching over and playing some receiver as well.

3. Alabama cornerback **Fernando Bryant** (below) was thinking of turning pro last spring until Tide coaches told him they would be happy to let him double as a receiver.



4. Arizona State's **J.R. Redmond** seems to be doing it all for the Wildcats as a running back, receiver, and kick returner, but he'll do more this year. He'll play some safety, too.

5. Ohio State linebacker **Andy Katzenmoyer** is another defensive player who could get into the Heisman hunt with a couple of touchdown runs as a goal-line fullback.

THE CRYSTAL BALL

10 things to look for in 1998:

1. Ohio State's John Cooper breaks out big with a victory against Michigan to win the Big Ten title and with a victory against Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl to win a disputed national championship.
2. The Buckeyes' title is disputed because the new super alliance fails to settle college football's hunt for a true national champion. Arizona State and Colorado State also end their seasons undefeated.
3. The super alliance begins studying how to preserve the bowl system by transforming it into a playoff format.
4. Florida coach Steve Spurrier says his backups were just running the offense in a 112-0 season-opening victory over The Citadel.
5. Six players from Ohio University are hospitalized after trying to tackle Wisconsin's 260-pound tailback Ron Dayne, who stays healthy the entire '98 season and rebounds from last year's disappointment with 2,000 yards rushing.
6. Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke plays so well in place of injured Dan Kendra that he creates a QB controversy in Tallahassee when Kendra returns. The fuss causes coach Bobby Bowden to declare: "Dad-gummit, if Steve Spurrier can rotate quarterbacks, so can I!"
7. Kansas State is a long field goal away from ending a 29-game losing streak to Nebraska, but, alas, the snap is bobbled and All-America kicker Martin Gramatica never gets a chance to win the game.
8. The Big East fails to have a single team ranked among the top 25 in the final polls.
9. Spurrier becomes so frustrated by his quarterbacks' poor play, he becomes the first coach to use a three-headed QB, rotating one every play.
10. The nation's top I-A conferences begin talking behind the scenes about how to secede from the NCAA and form their own governing body and their own set of rules.

Top Newcomers

1. Kansas State running back **Frank Murphy** was the 1997 junior college player of the year. He rushed for 1,370 yards and 26 TDs at Garden City (KS) Junior College.

2. Washington State running back **Kevin Brown** is a transfer from San Francisco City College who could make an immediate impact in the Cougars' one-back offense.

3. Illinois receiver **Terrance Smalls**, a junior college transfer, has game-breaking speed. He could become the main target and take some pressure off quarterback Mark Hoekstra. Smalls may contribute as a kick returner, too.

4. Georgia Tech freshman sensation **Kerry Watkins** has speed and strength and is prepared to step in at wide receiver and give quarterback Joe Hamilton another lethal weapon.

5. Texas Tech sophomore **John Norman** joins the lineup as a first-year starter at safety poised to challenge for all-conference honors.

10 Games to Watch

Sept. 12 Syracuse at Michigan

If the Orangemen are going to make a national championship run and if Donovan McNabb is going to win the Heisman Trophy, the Orangemen must win this game.

Sept. 19 Florida at Tennessee

Can first-year starter Tee Martin do something Peyton Manning could not do in his four starts and beat the Gators? Though Steve Spurrier grew up in Tennessee, he is despised in the Knoxville area. But he seems to enjoy making the Vols miserable.

Oct. 10 UCLA at Arizona

Bruins quarterback Cade McNown can stake a claim in the Heisman race with this road victory. The Wildcats can stake a claim in the national championship hunt.

Oct. 10 Notre Dame at Arizona St.

Coach Bob Davie sees if the Irish are ready to return to the elite ranks against an offensive powerhouse in Tempe.

Oct. 10 LSU at Florida

Classic matchup. The Tigers'

loaded offense against the Gators' loaded defense. There are All-Americans and NFL prospects going head-to-head.

Oct. 31 Georgia at Florida

The Bulldogs must get by the Gators to make their first appearance in the SEC championship game.

Nov. 14 Nebraska at Kansas St.

The Wildcats will be trying to break a 29-game losing streak against the Cornhuskers in a game that has Big 12 as well as national ramifications.

Nov. 21 Florida at Florida St.

It's the best rivalry in college football. Period.

Nov. 21 Michigan at Ohio St.

Buckeyes coach John Cooper has all the pieces in place to compete for the school's first national championship since 1968, but the Wolverines seem to own him.

Nov. 27 Arizona St. at Arizona

Offensive fireworks guaranteed. Winner could earn Fiesta Bowl berth in national championship game.



NCAA NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL



9/8/

NCAA FOOTBALL
SPECIAL SECTION



WWW.NCAAFootball.NET





WHAT IS NCAA FOOTBALL

Not quite sure what NCAA Football is? Actually, you probably have a much better idea than you think. Try taking this little quiz:

1. Do you know what it's like to agonize with more than 100,000 fans over every play of a late fourth-quarter drive?
2. Do you feel waves of nostalgia and tradition at the sight of Penn State's classically simple uniforms or the sound of Michigan's booming "Hail to the Victors?"
3. Flutie to Phelan. Bear Bryant. Wide right. Eddie Robinson. Herschel Walker. Peyton Manning. Does just hearing these words evoke images of great moments from the past?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you know what NCAA Football is.

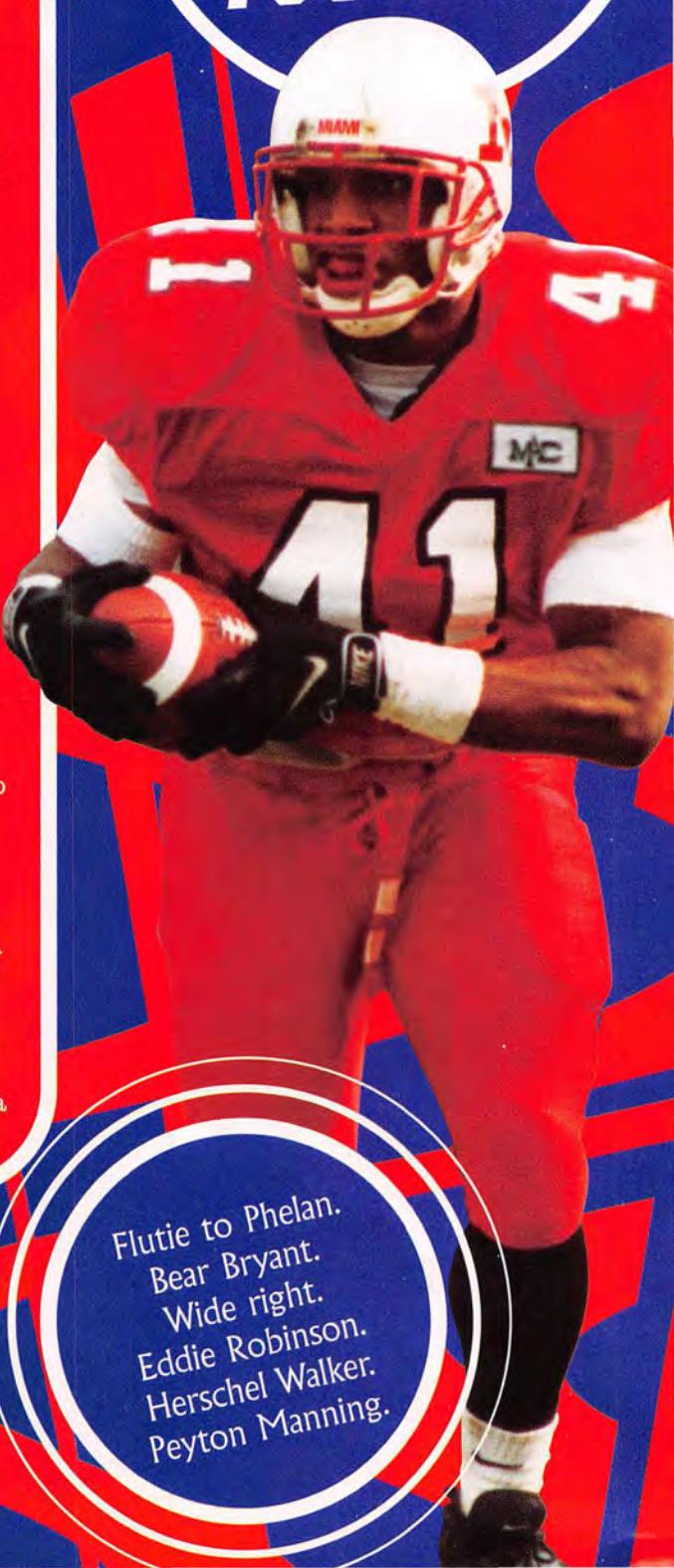
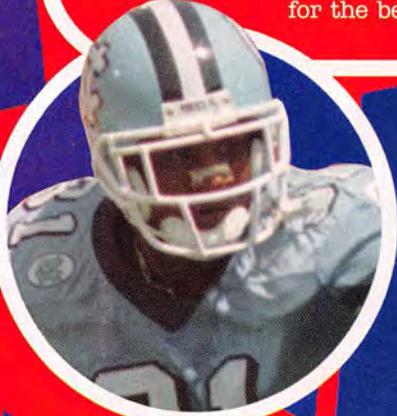
NCAA Football is Script Ohio, The Swamp, Homecoming and Howard's Rock. It's sweltering two-a-days in August and crisp fall Saturdays in South Bend.

It's as omnipresent as the color red in Lincoln and carries all the emotion of Army-Navy, USC-UCLA and Alabama-Auburn.

"Obviously, in my opinion, college football is the greatest sport there is," said American Football Coaches Association president Roy Kidd, the head coach at Eastern Kentucky University. "What makes college football so great is that it is one of the few sports that an entire community can get behind. Everyone can go to the pep rallies, tailgate before the games and watch some of the finest athletes in the country."

"We hope the NCAA Football initiative can help spread the word about what so many people already know — that college football is the best game in town."

Technically speaking, NCAA Football is a coalition of the NCAA, the Collegiate Commissioners Association, the AFCA and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics formed to preserve and promote the game of college football. It is the first time these groups have pooled their resources under one umbrella for the betterment of college football.



Flutie to Phelan.
Bear Bryant.
Wide right.
Eddie Robinson.
Herschel Walker.
Peyton Manning.

ENTHUSIASM



NCAA Football is Script Ohio,
The Swamp,
Homecoming and
Howard's Rock



What does all this mean to the fans? It measures a national radio network bringing the nation's best games to all parts of the country each week. It means promotional efforts designed to create more opportunities for people to attend games. It means interactive events for fans, including video game challenges, obstacle courses and skill competitions.

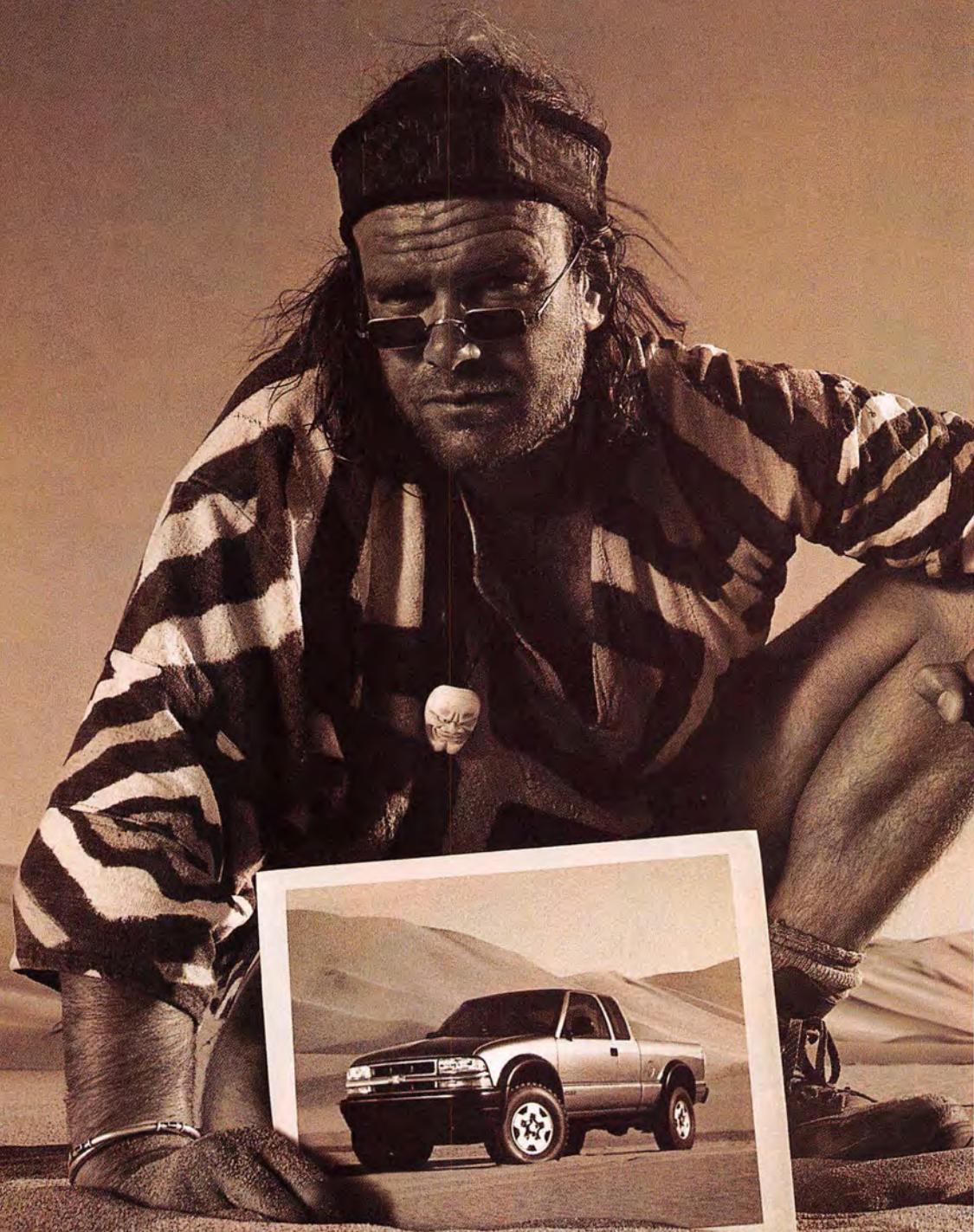
It means www.ncaafootball.net, a web site packed weekly syndicated TV show profiling college football. And it means "The Slant," a fast-filled news, pictures and stories about college football. Part of increasing the visibility of NCAA Football is the unveiling of the new NCAA logo. Introduced earlier this year, the logo takes its place as part of the pageantry that is stadiums across the country. Bright and colorful, maroon will be on display on team helmets and in the takes its place as part of the pageantry that is stadiums across the country. Bright and colorful, maroon will be on display on team helmets and in the

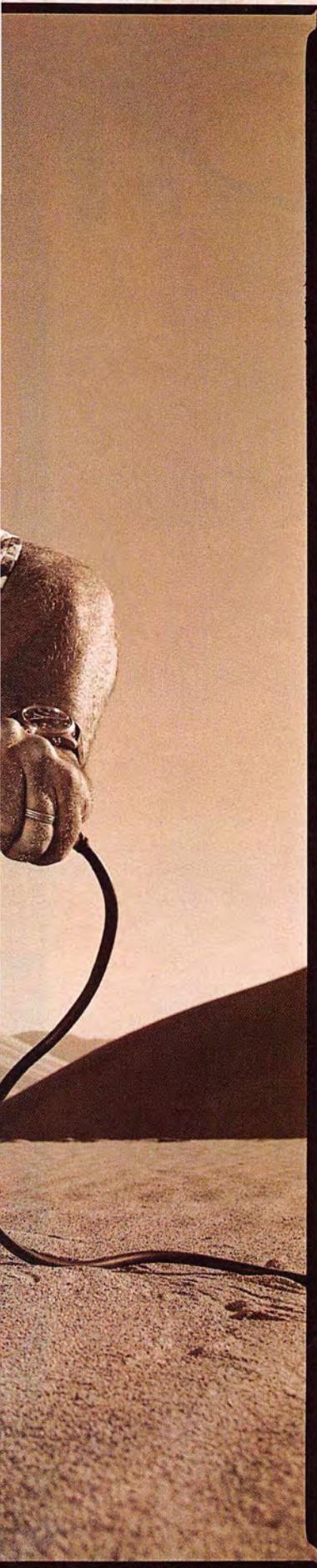
So now you know what NCAA Football is. Just like you always have.

So now you know what NCAA Football is. Just like you always have.

College football.

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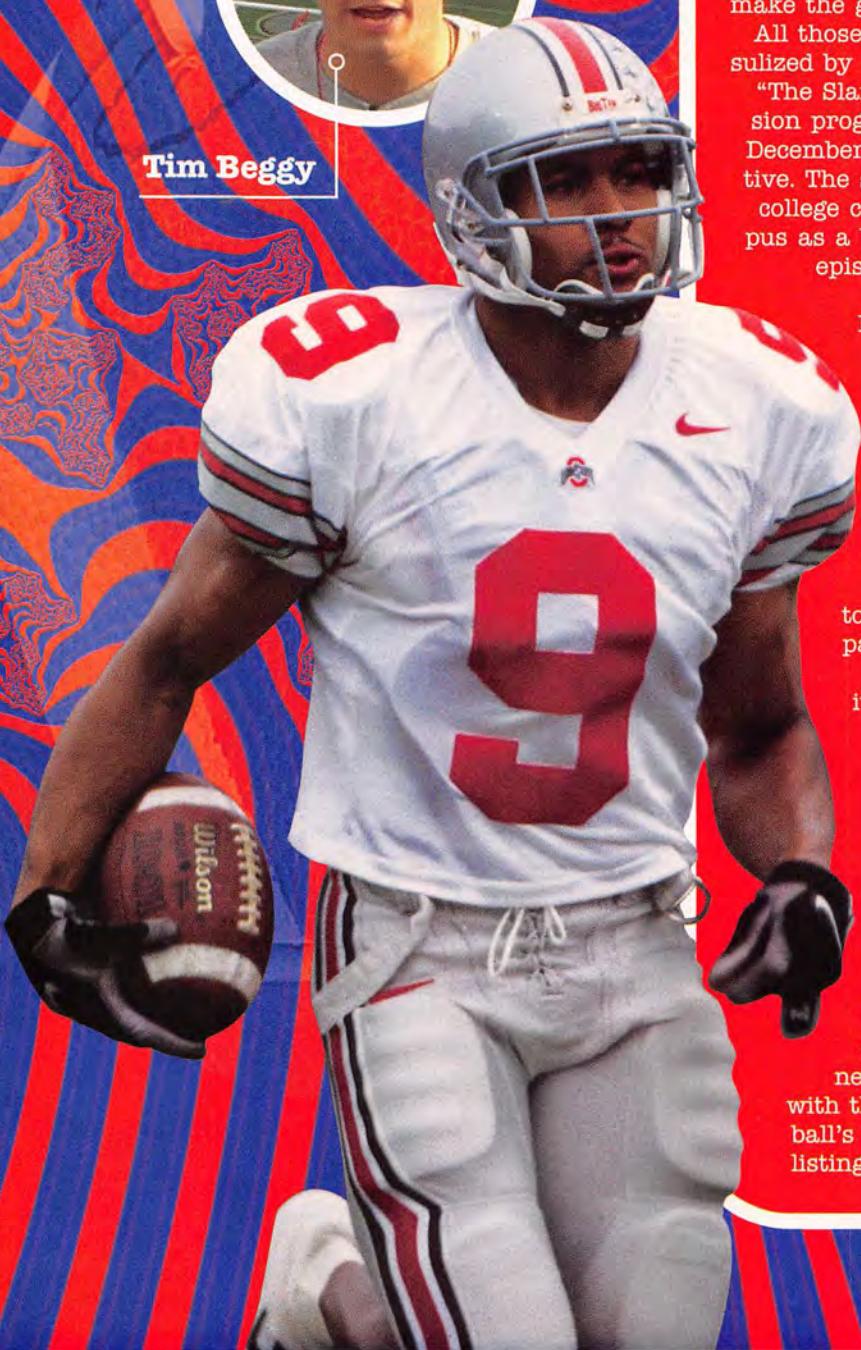




NCAA®



Tim Beggy



When you think college football you think of non-stop action. You think of the packed stadiums. You think of the colorful players.

You think of the quotable coaches. You think of the crazy fans. You think of the zany mascots. You think of the pageantry. You think of the tradition. You think of all the things that make the game so great.

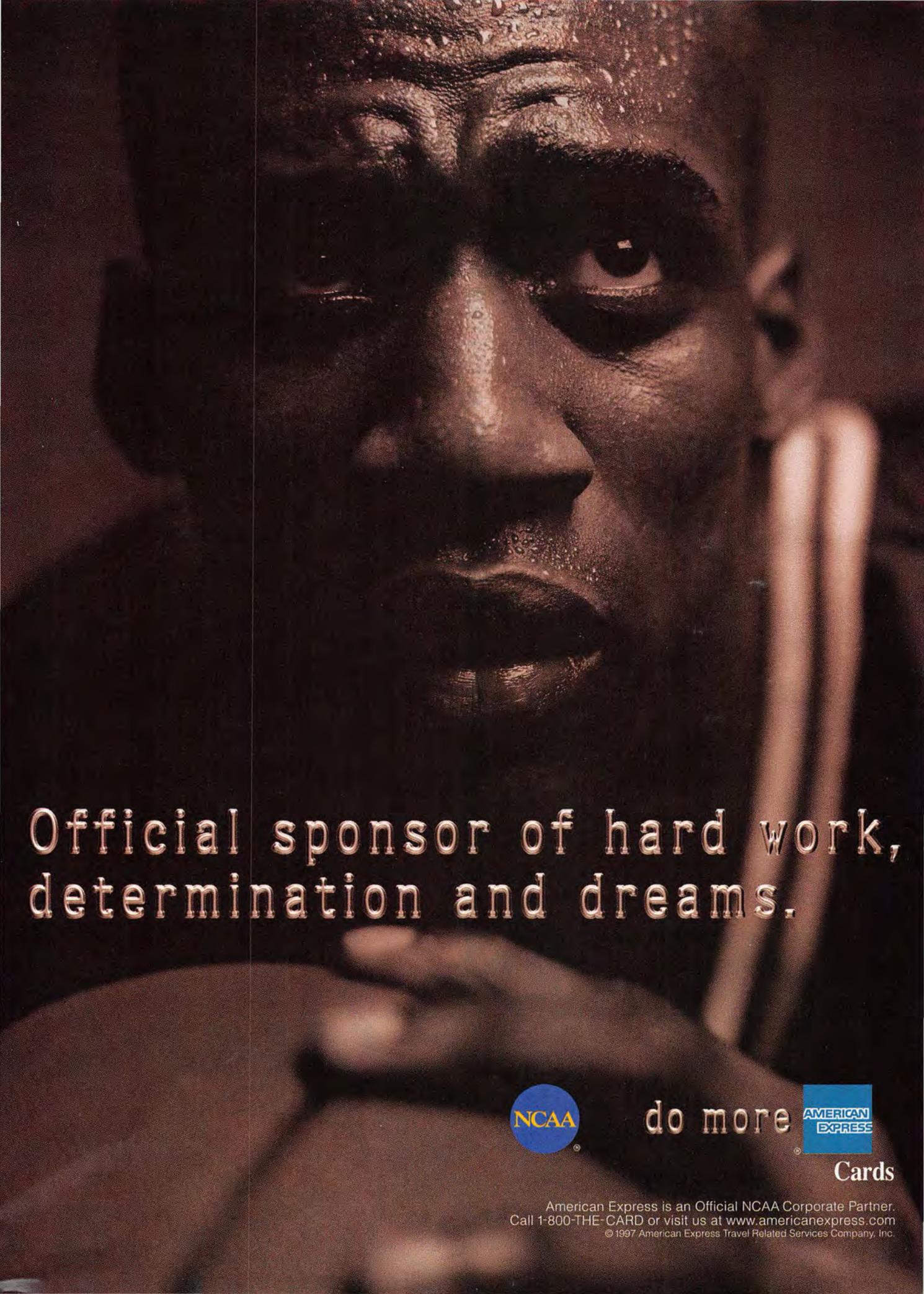
All those elements — and more — are capsule-d by "NCAA Football: The Slant."

"The Slant" is a fast-moving 30-minute television program which airs weekly from August to December as part of the NCAA Football initiative. The second-year show travels to a different college campus each week, utilizing the campus as a backdrop for that episode. Every episode is about bringing to life the scenes and people from all divisions of NCAA college football and seeking out the off-beat and most interesting elements that make Saturdays in the fall so great.

With the show's production emphasis as edgy as the game of football itself, "The Slant" blends the feature stories with modern music and colorful graphics. Add in Tim Beggy, the show's host who ties it all together, and you've got 30 action-packed minutes of television.

A former MTV "Road Rules" personality who was most recently the host of "Seven Up and Out" on that network this summer, Beggy brings enthusiasm, flair and his unique personality to the show. Beggy combines an insider's perspective — he played college football at Duquesne — with an outsider's curiosity to pique the interest of the viewers and keep the pace of the show fast and furious.

"The Slant" will appear throughout the 1998 football season across the country on FOX Sports Net regional networks and in syndication. To catch up with the latest information on collegiate football's movers and shakers, check your local listings for broadcast time and channel.



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Nothing is more frustrating for a college football fan than to have his or her favorite team playing one of its biggest games of the season and the only way to follow it is through intermittent radio and television updates.

The NCAA Football Radio Network doesn't just give you the score. With more than 180 affiliates in some of the nation's top media markets, the network offers an extensive Game of the Week package. It kicks off its coverage on Aug. 30 with the ninth annual Pigskin Classic, as Purdue visits Southern California. This will be followed by Texas A&M and Florida State in the 16th annual Kickoff Classic on Aug. 31 in East Rutherford, N.J.

In addition to a 42-game regular-season schedule featuring all eight major football conferences, the network also broadcasts the SEC, WAC and Big 12 Conference championship games.

The NCAA Football Radio Network, a joint venture between Host Communications, Inc. and Westwood One, had quite an impact in its inaugural season last fall. It averaged six million listeners per game during the regular season and eight million during the post-season.

Back for their second season on the network are play-by-play man Chuck Cooperstein and former Minnesota and TCU head football coach Jim Wacker as color analyst.

Cooperstein and Wacker will be joined on the network by several experienced broadcasters, including Don Criqui, Fran Curci, John Tautges, Mark May, Joel Meyers and Brad Sham.

To find out more about the NCAA Football Radio Network, including a list of affiliates, check out the NCAA Football website at www.ncaafootball.net.

RADIO NETWORK

Schedule

- 8/30 Pigskin Classic
(Purdue at Southern California)
- 8/31 Kickoff Classic at
East Rutherford, N.J.
(Texas A&M vs. Florida State)
- 9/3 Virginia at Auburn
- 9/5 Tennessee at Syracuse
Washington at Arizona State
- 9/12 TBA
- 9/19 Florida at Tennessee
BYU at Washington
- 9/26 Washington at Nebraska
Southern California at Florida State
- 10/3 Penn State at Ohio State
Tennessee at Auburn
- 10/8 Virginia Tech at Boston College
- 10/10 Florida State at Miami (Florida)
- 10/17 Auburn at Florida
Clemson at Florida State
- 10/22 Stanford at Arizona State
- 10/24 Alabama at Tennessee
Miami (Florida) at West Virginia
- 10/31 North Carolina at Florida State
- 11/14 UCLA at Washington
- 11/19 Pittsburgh at Miami (Florida)
- 11/21 Florida at Florida State
Michigan at Ohio State
- 11/27 Colorado at Nebraska
Texas A&M at Texas
- 11/28 Michigan State at Penn State
Miami (Florida) at Syracuse
- 12/5 Army vs. Navy at Philadelphia
WAC Championship
Big 12 Championship
SEC Championship
- 12/25 Aloha Bowl
- 12/26 Heritage Bowl
- 12/30 Holiday Bowl
- 1/1 Cotton Bowl
Sugar Bowl

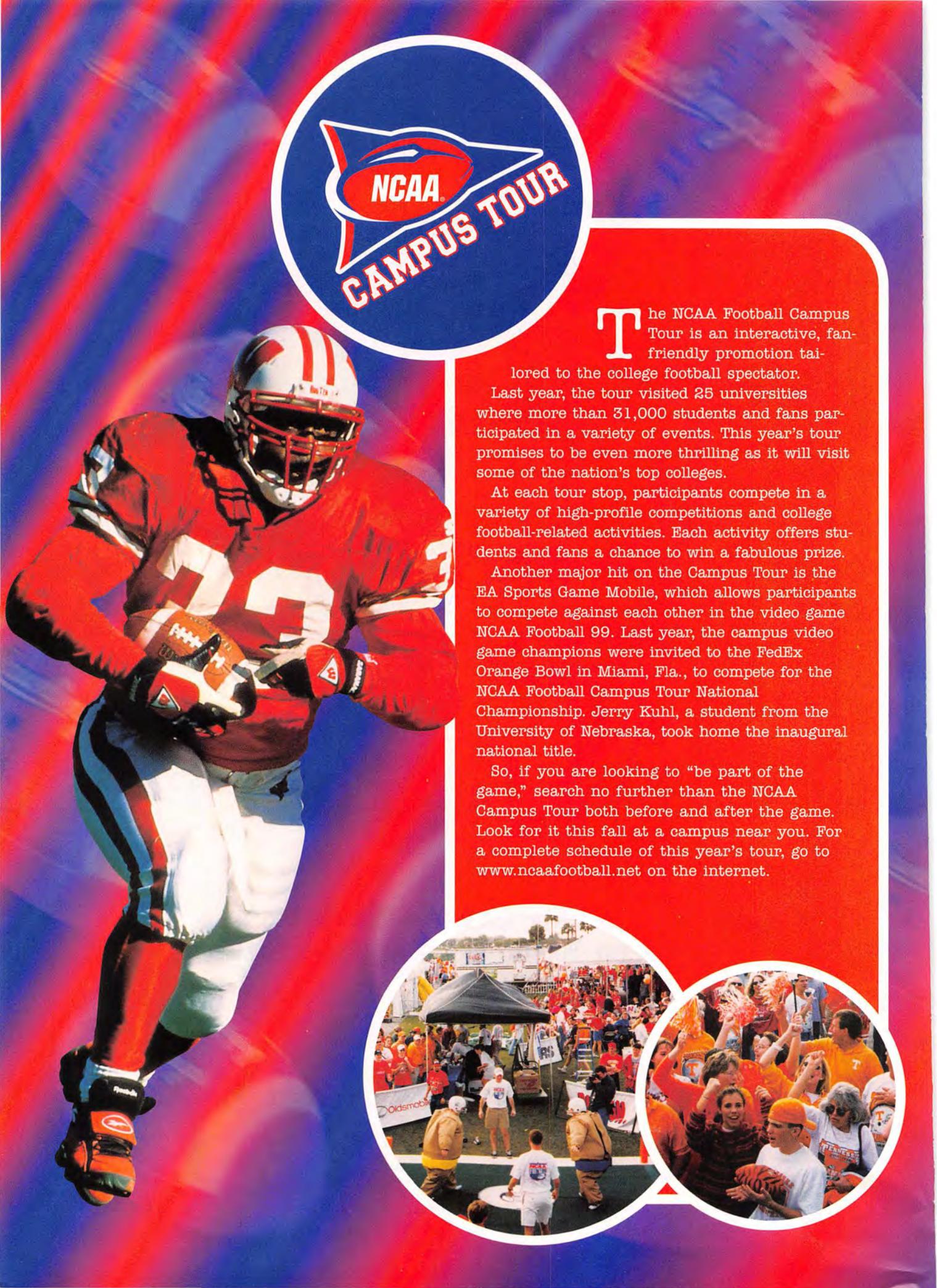
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NCAA



IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU WIN OR LOSE.
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NCAA CAMPUS TOUR

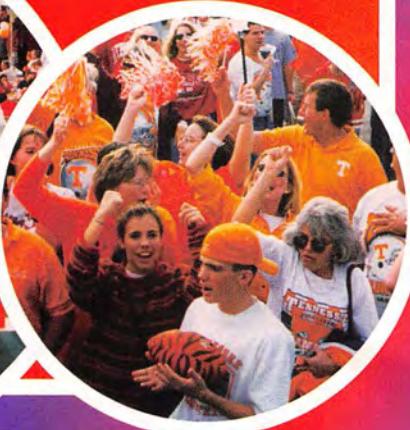
The NCAA Football Campus Tour is an interactive, fan-friendly promotion tailored to the college football spectator.

Last year, the tour visited 25 universities where more than 31,000 students and fans participated in a variety of events. This year's tour promises to be even more thrilling as it will visit some of the nation's top colleges.

At each tour stop, participants compete in a variety of high-profile competitions and college football-related activities. Each activity offers students and fans a chance to win a fabulous prize.

Another major hit on the Campus Tour is the EA Sports Game Mobile, which allows participants to compete against each other in the video game *NCAA Football 99*. Last year, the campus video game champions were invited to the FedEx Orange Bowl in Miami, Fla., to compete for the NCAA Football Campus Tour National Championship. Jerry Kuhl, a student from the University of Nebraska, took home the inaugural national title.

So, if you are looking to "be part of the game," search no further than the NCAA Campus Tour both before and after the game. Look for it this fall at a campus near you. For a complete schedule of this year's tour, go to www.ncaafootball.net on the internet.





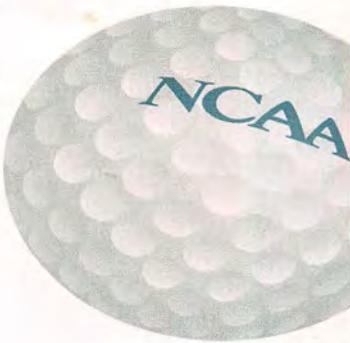
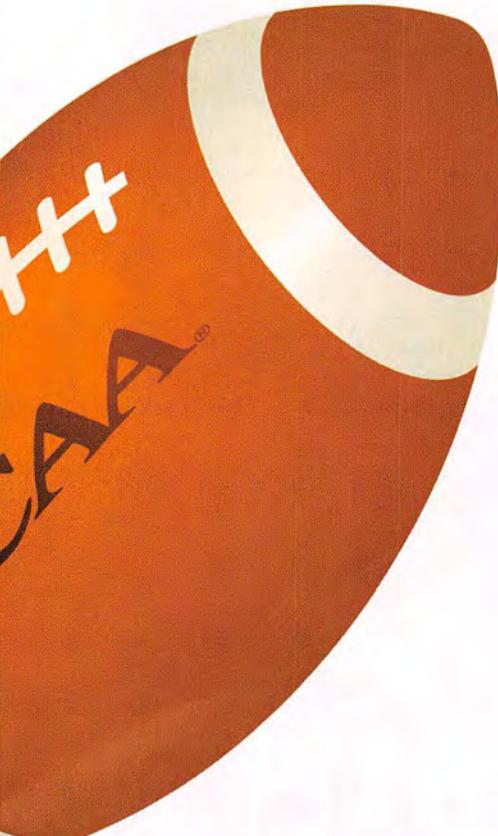
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NCAA

In the '50s, rock 'n roll was hip. In the '60s, it was Woodstock and free love. In the '70s, it was psychedelic clothing and disco music. In the '80s, it was big hair. Now, in the '90s, it's surfing the net.

The information age is upon us in full force, and college football is right there. Fans across the country will have the opportunity to ride a tidal wave of information on www.ncaafootball.net. A plethora of facts, figures and features will be at the fingertips of college football junkies everywhere.

The foundation has been laid for an all-encompassing college football "super site" that will keep people up to date on the latest news from Divisions I-A, I-AA, II and III.

In addition to breaking news, www.ncaafootball.net will feature game previews, polls, scores, standings and statistics. Unique content will include human interest features that will give insight into the people that make college football great, and interactive games and polls that will allow kids and adults alike to learn about college football in an entertaining manner.

The web site will also provide information about the Sears Trophy — college football's prize awarded to the top team in the *USA Today/CNN Top 25 Coaches' Poll* — "The Slant" television show, the NCAA Football Radio Network and the NCAA Football Campus Tour. It will also provide access to links to your favorite college football conference.

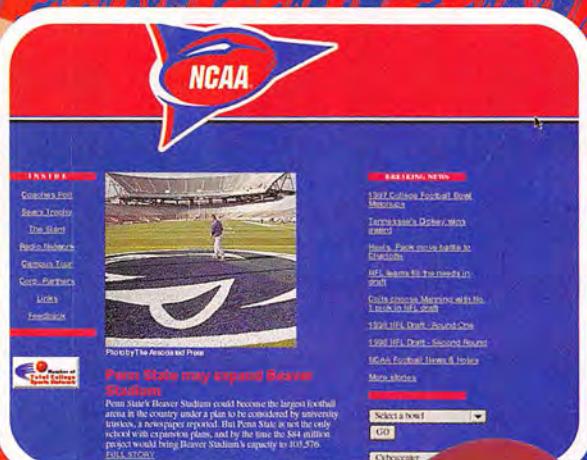
But, it doesn't end there. Fans will also have access to "cybercasts" for Total College Sports Network members Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina, Georgia Tech, Duke and Navy.

When it comes to keeping up with what's happening in the world of college football, fans across the nation are certain not to wipe out if they catch the wave at www.ncaafootball.net.



**ON THE
WEB**

WWW.NCAAFOOTBALL.NET



The screenshot shows the homepage of the www.ncaafootball.net website. At the top is a red header bar with the "NCAA" logo. Below it is a blue navigation bar with links like "INSTITUTE", "Gameday Plus", "Season Preview", "The Hall", "Radio Networks", "Gameday Tour", "Golf", "Partners", "FAQs", and "Feedback". To the right is a "BREAKING NEWS" sidebar with headlines such as "1997 College Football Week", "Tennessee's Oliver wins Heisman", "Hawks Pack more seats to Beaver", "NFL teams fill the needs in 2001", "Colts' Johnson Manning with No. 1 pick in draft", "1998 NFL Draft - Second Round", "Mobile Football News & Tools", and "More stories...". Below the sidebar is a search field with dropdown menus for "Select a how I..." and "GO", and a "Cybercast" link. The main content area features a large image of a football stadium and a smaller image of a person walking on a field.



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Take me out to the ballgame.
Take me out to the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jacks.
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TAKE A
KID TO
THE GAME

Sound familiar? Is the well-known tune dancing through your mind? Are those childhood memories of heading out to your favorite stadium with dear old Dad on those hot summer days rushing back? Although the above melody is associated with baseball, it is precisely the nostalgia that NCAA Football is aiming to create in 1998 with its "Take A Kid To The Game" program.

"Take A Kid To The Game" is NCAA Football's fresh new initiative to increase youth attendance and interest in college football. It encourages adult football fans to venture out to the sporting events that they normally enjoy and to bring along a child or a friend.

Participating universities will benefit by increasing their football fan base and strengthening their ties within the community, while allowing young sports fanatics to spectate for free or at a discounted price and participate in a variety of entertaining pre-game activities.

Thanks to NCAA Football, kids across the nation will be root-root-rooting for the home team in '98.

To uncover all of the latest NCAA Football information, check www.ncaafootball.net.



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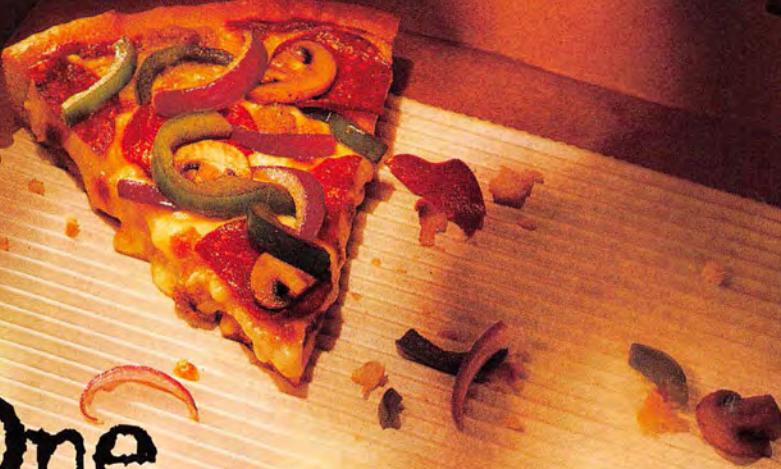
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EA SPORTSTM, the leading interactive sports software brand in the world, brings college football to life with NCAA® Football 99 — the only game that allows you to compete for the national championship.

Allowing players to select from all 111 teams of the 10 different Division I-A conferences, NCAA Football 99 has the exclusive rights to the FedEx Orange Bowl, The Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and The Nokia Sugar Bowl, providing real-life bowl competition not found in any other interactive college football game. With the 1999 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl as the final stop to determine the NCAA Football national champion, NCAA Football 99 will be the only college football computer and video game in which fans can play a full season in the quest for the coveted national title.

If nostalgia is more your thing, NCAA Football 99 also includes 40 all-time historic games, with 80 of the greatest college football teams ever to step onto the gridiron. Accurate position rankings and skill levels for each school enhance the game's realism.

NCAA Football 99 introduces a new dynamic atmosphere that recreates the raucous college environment with many new fight songs, chants and pep songs. Crowds react to the teams' performances with increased and diminished levels of enthusiasm depending on the level of play.

"With NCAA Football 99, EA SPORTS has truly captured the essence of the sport as well as the incredible rowdy fan environment in which the game is played," said Ken Balthaser, associate producer for college sports at Electronic Arts.

Once again, EA SPORTSTM will be a part of the NCAA Football Campus Tour, allowing patrons the opportunity to play NCAA Football 99.



Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) may not be a household name to most college football fans, but its logo, trademark and influence play an important role throughout the NCAA. But what is CLC and why should followers of State University's football team care about it? Perhaps because CLC plays a vital role in maintaining the success of State U. and every other school in the country.

CLC was instrumental in developing NCAA Football's logo. With the introduction of the new NCAA logo, customer awareness of and interest in the NCAA Football initiative is growing. The new mark is a more modern, progressive logo and conveys excitement about the future of college football.

The mark that will appear on the jerseys will display the universities' conference affiliation. Not only do college fans support their favorite college or university, they also have a strong loyalty for the conference of their favorite team. The NCAA Football mark will also appear on the back of the helmets of most NCAA Football universities.

CLC provides a number of services, but most importantly it monitors trademark and license usage. The company not only makes sure products with your university's name and images are up to par, but its enforcement department ensures licensed material is used by the proper people. One of the most recognizable products licensed by CLC is EA Sports NCAA Football 99 video game, for PCs and the Sony PlayStation. CLC also oversees most of the athletic t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and other apparel available across the country at a variety of retail stores.

NCAA Football is part of CLC's licensing program and the company oversees use of the NCAA Football logo and has helped with promotions such as the Sears-Part America's involvement at more than 100 stores nationwide. Shoppers at these stores were given NCAA Football merchandise and the employees wore NCAA Football gear.



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KICKOFF & PIGSKIN CLASSICS

Talk about starting with a bang. A pair of matchups worthy of New Year's Day bowl games will set into motion an outstanding season of NCAA football in 1998.

On August 30 at 2:30 p.m. EDT, the Purdue Boilermakers travel to Los Angeles, California, to take on the Southern California Trojans in the Pigskin Classic. As if that contest was not enough, the Kickoff Classic pits the Florida State Seminoles against the Texas A&M Aggies at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on August 31 at 8 p.m. EDT.

The ninth annual Pigskin Classic marks the dawning of a new era in the storied history of Southern California football, as Paul Hackett takes over as head coach.

Hackett, who inherits a team that returns 15 starters from last year's 6-5 squad, is poised to return the Trojans to glory.

On the opposite sideline, Purdue head coach Joe Tiller will be attempting to provide an encore performance to last year's amazing season. In his first year at the helm of the Boilermaker program, Tiller directed the nation's second-best turnaround.

While Purdue is making their first-ever appearance in a preseason classic, Southern California will be playing in the Pigskin Classic for the second time. The Trojans were beaten, 31-9, by North Carolina in 1993. The Trojans have also participated in the Kickoff Classic twice — downing Syracuse, 34-16, in 1990 and losing to Penn State, 24-7, in 1996.

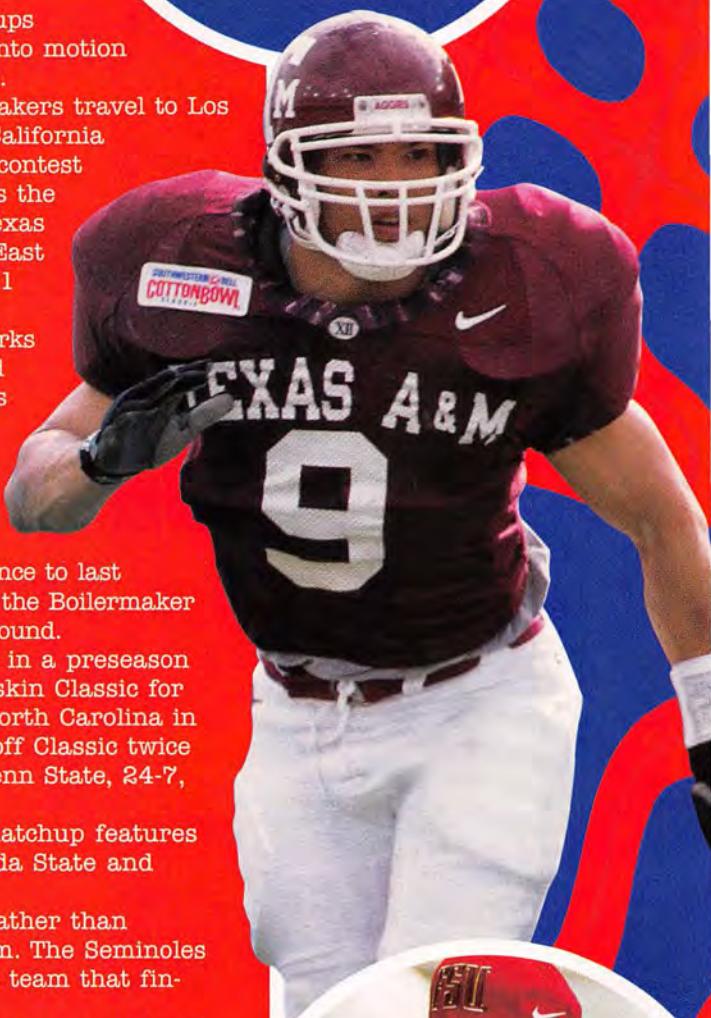
Speaking of the Kickoff Classic, its 16th annual matchup features a pair of national championship contenders in Florida State and Texas A&M.

Head coach Bobby Bowden, who prefers to reload rather than rebuild, appears to have yet another outstanding team. The Seminoles return 14 starters and 57 lettermen from last year's team that finished with a No. 3 ranking.

Texas A&M also returns 14 starters, as it looks to build on a Big 12 Conference South Division championship, a 9-4 record and a No. 20 ranking in the final Associated Press poll last season. Under the leadership of head coach R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M has made winning a habit. The Aggies are among the nation's top 10 in total victories and winning percentage during the decade of the '90s.

The Seminoles are hoping their participation in this season's Kickoff Classic is an omen of things to come. In 1993, Florida State crushed Kansas 42-0 at the Meadowlands en route to the national championship. The Seminoles also captured the 1991 Pigskin Classic, 44-28, over Brigham Young. Texas A&M will be making its fourth preseason appearance in 11 years. The Aggies lost to Nebraska, 23-14, in the 1988 Kickoff Classic, beat Stanford, 10-7, in the 1992 Pigskin Classic and fell to Brigham Young, 41-37, in the 1996 Pigskin Classic.

Pigskin Classic
August 30, 2:30 p.m.
Purdue at
Southern California



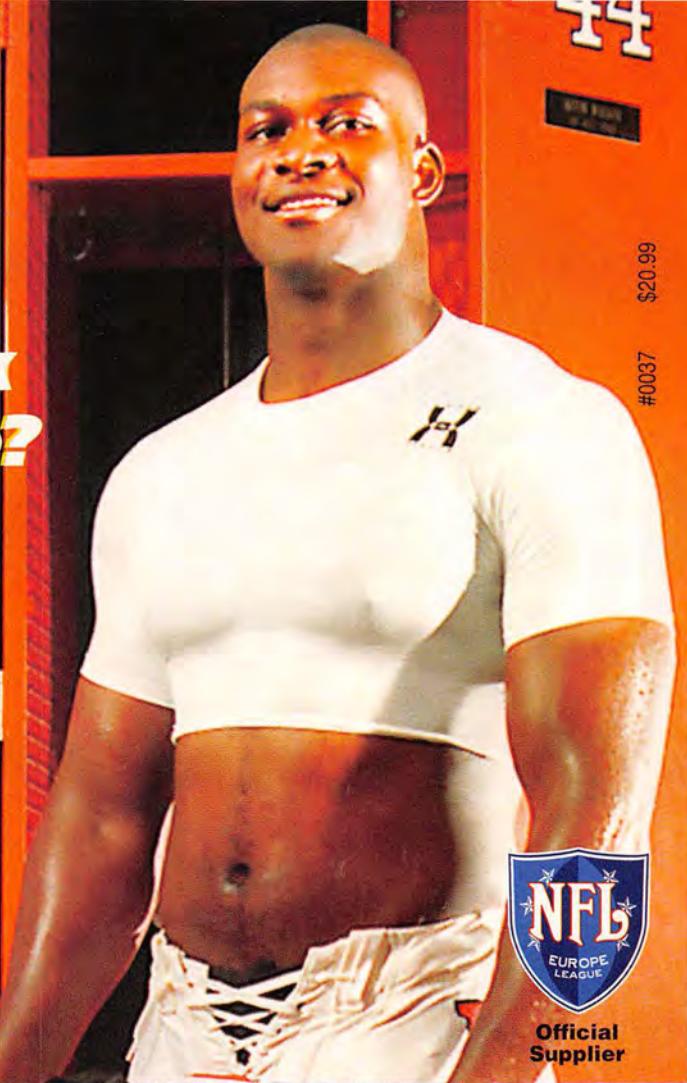
Kickoff Classic
August 31, 8 p.m.
Florida State vs.
Texas A&M



45

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was the only player in training camp last year that had Under Armour and I loved it. By the time the season started nearly everyone on the team was wearing it."

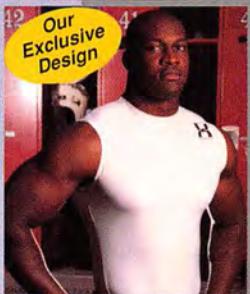
— Jim Druckenmiller, QB, 1997 #1 Draft Pick San Francisco 49ers

"I had 18 sacks last year at Florida State wearing Under Armour. Late in a game, when a cotton shirt becomes wet and heavy, Under Armour fits tight, keeps me cool and feels like I am wearing nothing at all."

— Andre Wadsworth, DE, 1998 #1 Draft Pick Arizona Cardinals

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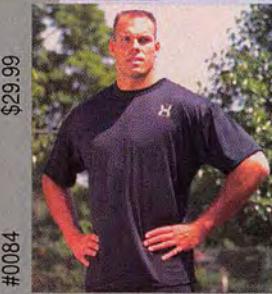


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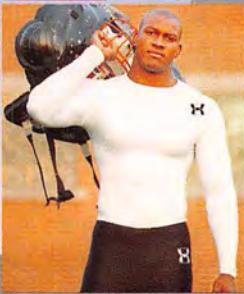


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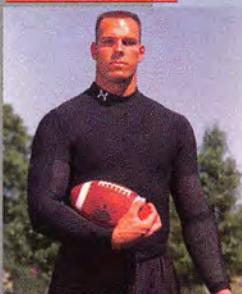
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#0037



SILENT STAR

DIVISION I-A

U
ntil he
entered
Notre Dame High
School in
Shelburne Oaks,
Gatlin, in the fall
of 1994, just in
time for the full
black, recalled Faragas. "We had a couple of
guys go D-I (recruited Faragas. "We had a
couple of
scholarships), and that's when I decided that's
what I wanted."

"As a sophomore, I started on the varsity at
tuition.

Don't get the wrong idea. Faragas has never
been enamored with the spotlight, nor does he
view college as a brief respite from his term.
Instead, he saw his route to pro-
fessional stardom. Rather, he saw his next
level as a direct result of their hard work.

Mates' opportunity to advance to the next
state history with 6,255 yards and 77 touch-

downs. He then capped an intense, nationwide
recruiting battle when he signed with 6,255 yards and 77 touch-

downs. He closed his career as the fifth-leading rusher in

set in California high school annals. He

"Starkey & Hough") has made a name for him-

(Hughey) Bear in the 1970s television series

"My parents have always taught me to be
proper approach off the field.

Just as Faragas has used a unique blend of

speed and strength to excel on the field, he has

also utilized a balanced attitude to maintain the

team in its form of therapy during the season.

In addition to his paintings being an outstanding

tribute to his student-athletes, Raymond uses the

arts to see the man honored in a very tense peri-

od," said Raymond. "By Thursday morning, there's

a break in our schedule and that's when I do the

picture. I don't spend more than a half hour on it,

Some of them I like. Some of them are really bad.

Some of them I like. Some of them are really bad.

With Haymond's paintings may not withstand

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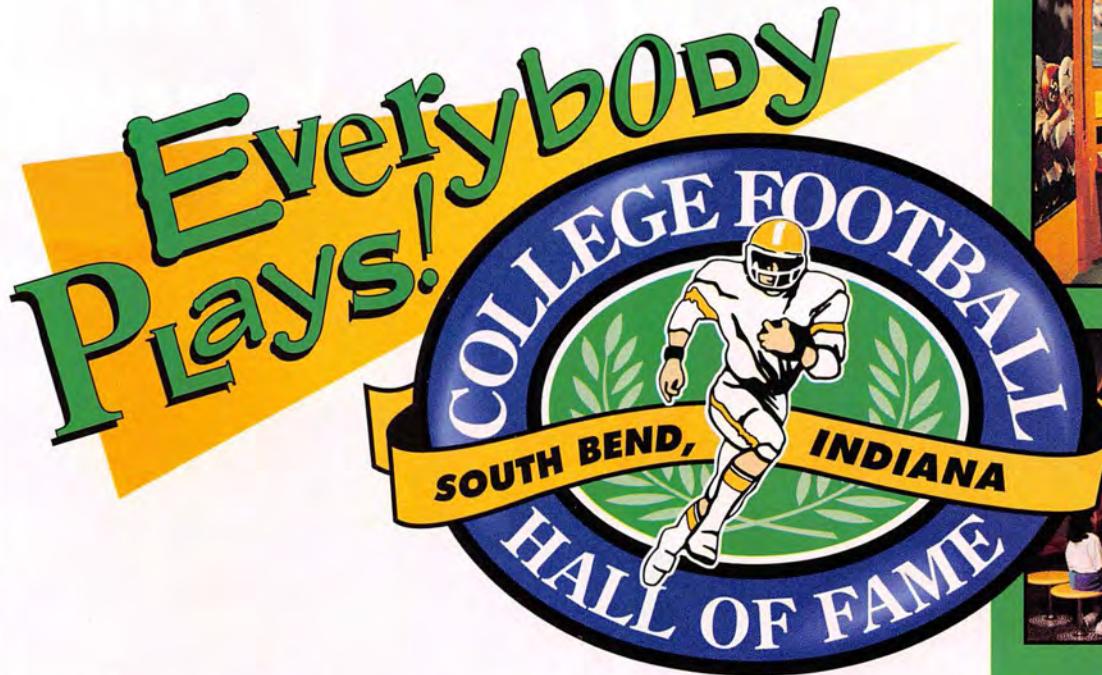
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DIVISION II

BACK TO SCHOOL II

Football or baseball? It may be the toughest question Paul Failla's ever had to answer. Coming out of high school, Failla was selected in the Major League Baseball draft and offered a football scholarship to Notre Dame. He

chose football and played three years for the Irish. He saw a fair amount of action, but battling Rick Mirer, Kevin McDougal and Ron Powlus for playing time at quarterback convinced him he was never going to be a star at Notre Dame — at least not in football. On the baseball diamond, Failla had continued to excel for the Irish and was chosen in the third round of the '94 draft by the California Angels. This time, he passed up his senior year and chose baseball.

While Failla displayed the skills worthy of his high draft choice — he was a two-time minor league all-star for the Angels — he was never able to give it everything he had. His heart was still in football.

"I felt so out of place not playing football," Failla said. "Baseball was such a day-to-day grind for me, and I just wasn't enjoying it. Finally, I said, it's time to do what I want to do."

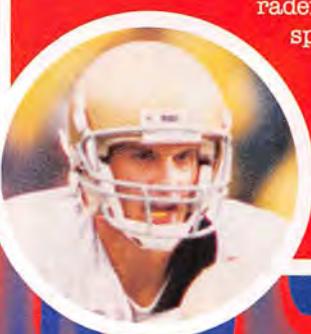
Failla put in a call to the NCAA to check on his eligibility. He found out that while his Division I eligibility had expired, he could still play a year of Division II ball. The choice was easy — football.

So now, five full seasons since his last football campaign at Notre Dame and three years since he graduated, Failla is back in school, playing football at Indiana (Pennsylvania), a perennial Division II powerhouse. He enrolled last January and participated in spring practices.

"I know people think I'm crazy, but football's always been my first love and passion," Failla said. "It's wild to be back playing football, it's a blast. It feels amazingly natural. I spend so much more time with football now than I ever did before. I just have such a hunger for it. Now I can't wait to get out to practice and I'm bummed when the whistle blows and practice is over."

"I definitely have a newfound appreciation for football. I just missed the camaraderie, the competitiveness, the spirit it brings out in you."

Football or baseball? Once, it was tougher than any test question to Failla. Now, it's a no-brainer.



DIVISION III

PURPLE REIGN

It's trivia time, kids. Name the team that has the highest winning percentage in the 1990s.

Florida State? Nebraska? Good guesses, but try Division III Mount Union.

That's right, the Purple Raiders of Mount Union have amassed a 94-6-1 mark for a staggering .934 winning percentage so far this decade. Think about that for a minute — eight seasons with only six losses.

A quick scan of Mount Union's eight seasons this decade yields further flashy facts:

- Three national titles (1993, '96 and '97)
- Seven NCAA playoff appearances
- Six times finished the regular season unbeaten.

So what gives at this mecca of success found in Alliance, Ohio, a hamlet of nearly 25,000 located in the northeast part of the state?

A good place to start is at the top with head coach Larry Kehres, who has been part of the program for 26 straight years as a coach and 29 of the last 32 counting his four-year stint as a player. He continued the legacy his mentor Ken Wable established, and has stayed true to his roots as an offensive mastermind since he became the head coach 12 years ago.

In the 1990s, the pass-happy Purple Raiders have produced two of the most prodigious quarterbacks in Division III history — Jim Ballard and Bill Borchert.

Ballard was Mount Union's signal-caller from 1991-93 and, as a senior, led the school to its first national title. He set 15 NCAA passing records and threw for 8,270 yards and 93 touchdowns in his three-year reign.

Borchert proved to be more than Ballard's "air apparent" when he took over in 1994. He led the Purple Raiders to a 28-0 mark and two national titles the past two seasons. Including postseason play, Borchert connected on 943 of 1,443 passes for 14,225 yards and 185 TDs in his four-year aerial assault.

But while an offense that outscored foes by a 669-184 count in '96 and 752-112 in '97 grabs most of the spotlight, Mount Union does not struggle on defense. Last season the Purple Raider defense led the nation in fewest points allowed per game (5.6).

They can do it with offense. They can do it with defense.

They aren't picky at Mount Union. As long as it furthers their legacy as college football's "Team of the '90s."





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ATLANTIC COAST

Look for a dynamite race in the ACC—for second place.

BY BOB SPEAR
THE (COLUMBIA) STATE

As always, Florida State stands head and shoulders above its league brethren, even if projected starting quarterback Dan Kendra fails to overcome a torn knee ligament he suffered in spring practice. "This is the fastest overall team we've ever had," Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden says.

That's not good news for the challengers, who believed they might catch up a bit last season. Instead, the Seminoles ran their record to 47-1 for their six seasons in the ACC and dominated North Carolina 20-3 in a showdown of nationally ranked powerhouses.

Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia Tech come into 1998 with the arsenals most likely to test Florida State. Can they? Yes, they can provide a test. Can they unseat the Seminoles? Not likely.

Rather, Florida State looks so well-fortified that its streak of 11 consecutive seasons of no worse than fourth in the final Associated Press poll should continue. That speed Bowden mentioned is the reason.

Other streaks that should not be interrupted include Virginia's 11 years in a row with at least seven victories and UNC's school-record six straight bowl games.

Florida State starts the season wondering about its quarterback, but other schools do not have that concern. Aaron Brooks (Virginia), Oscar Davenport (UNC), Joe Hamilton (Georgia Tech), Jamie Barnett (N.C. State), and Brian Kuklick (Wake Forest) all should rank among the career leaders at their schools by season's end. Two of them, Barnett and Hamilton, will have another season after this one to etch their names in the record books.

But look for that familiar ol' name, Florida State, at the top of the conference standings.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Peter Warrick,
WR, Florida State

DEFENSE:

Dré Bly,
CB, North Carolina

NEWCOMER:

Kerry Watkins,
WR, Georgia Tech

GAMES TO WATCH

Virginia at Florida
State, November 7

North Carolina at
Virginia, November 14

Florida at Florida
State, November 21

FLORIDA STATE

Even though quarterback Dan Kendra went down with a torn knee ligament in the spring game, the Seminoles figure to dominate the league again and contend for the national championship. Fourteen starters return from the squad (11-1, 8-0 in ACC) that placed third in the final polls.

"I wouldn't do it any other way," coach Bobby Bowden says of his decision to permit his quarterbacks to experience contact in the spring. "I want to find out under live conditions if a quarterback is tough enough." The theory, Bowden says, is that if the quarterback knows he will not be hit in scrimmages, he might throw nice passes. If, however, he is fair game for the defense, "it might be a different matter."

Bowden's way has worked for a 281-83-4 career record (208-51-4 at FSU). The Seminoles have won an NCAA-record 10 or more games 11 years in a row and have an unmatched string of 11 straight finishes

in the top four in the A.P. poll. They should add to those marks, even if Kendra does not return.

Chris Weinke, a 26-year-old sophomore who spent six years playing minor-league baseball, is the quarterback in Kendra's absence. A solid line is anchored by guard Jason Whitaker and tackle Ross Brannon. Travis Minor, who ran for 623 yards and scored 11 touchdowns in his freshman year, and spectacular receiver Peter Warrick will make sure the quarterback does not feel the need to carry the load alone.

Two All-Americans are among the six defensive regulars who must be replaced, but that's a familiar scenario and the Seminoles seldom falter. Lamont Green at linebacker, Tay Cody at cornerback, and Dexter Jackson at free safety will be names to remember this season. "Our defense carried us at times last year, and with a new quarterback we will need them to step up and lead early [this year]."

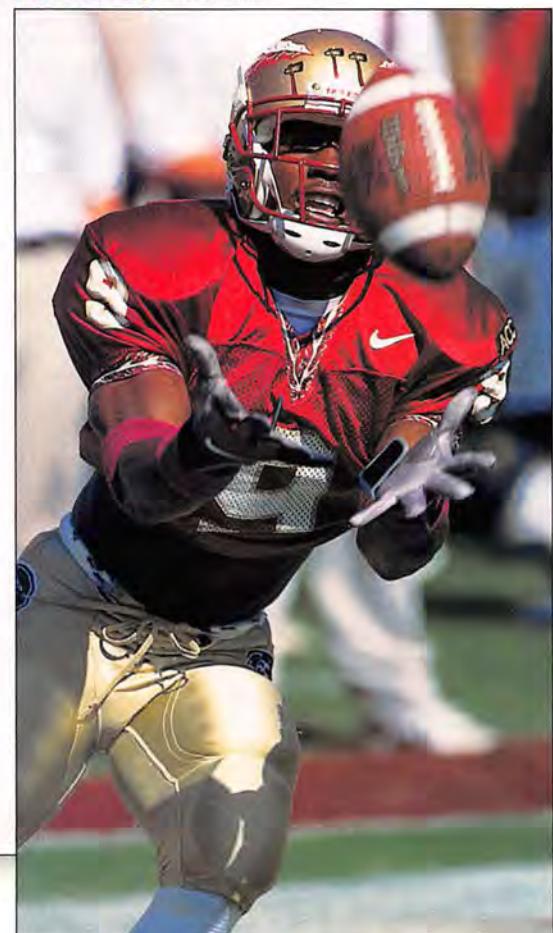
Throw in the return of punter Keith Cottrell and kicker Sebastian Janikowski, and not even the injury to Kendra clouds the picture.

"Our goal," Bowden says, "remains to win the national championship."

VIRGINIA

The Cavaliers began the 1997 campaign with four new assistant coaches and only nine veteran starters. The quarterback had never started a college game. Losses in two of their first three games did not brighten the picture. But by season's

Peter Warrick, Florida State





Antonio Dingle, Virginia

end, Virginia (7-4, 5-3) had its usual success: at least seven victories for the 11th straight season.

Winning that many should not be a problem this fall. Fifteen regulars return, the coaching staff is intact, and quarterback Aaron Brooks played spectacularly down the stretch. "I think we have the experience and we have the talent to win more than seven games," coach George Welsh says.

All-America safety Anthony Poindexter helped the cause immeasurably by opting to play his final season rather than enter the NFL draft. Although he missed all of one game and most of two others with injuries, he led the Cavaliers with four interceptions and finished third with 78 tackles. Perhaps more importantly, he provides stability in the secondary, the only area hit by graduation. "We should

be an improved defensive team," says Welsh, the winningest coach in school and ACC history (112-72-3). "We will have a better pass rush and do a little better job stopping the run and creating turnovers."

Tackle Antonio Dingle earned all-ACC honors and end Patrick Kerney's 45 tackles included eight sacks. Line-

backer Wali Rainer led the team in tackles (118) and had nine sacks.

The offensive line "could be solid if everyone stays healthy," Welsh says. Quarterback is in good hands with Brooks, and leading rusher Thomas Jones returns at tailback. Replacing the wide receivers could be a problem. Terrence Wilkins at one spot has more experience than Kevin Coffey and Ahmad Hawkins.

NORTH CAROLINA

New faces will be in abundance in Chapel Hill, but the Tar Heels (11-1, 7-1) expect the same old story: a strong season capped by a seventh straight bowl game.

The most significant new face is not really new. Carl Torbush moves to the head coach's chair after 10 years as defensive coordinator. And a couple of familiar faces, cornerback Dré Bly and quarterback Oscar Davenport, should help assure his transition goes smoothly.

"This year, we will have outstanding athletes on both sides of the ball who must show they are capable of being outstanding football players," Torbush says.

Bly already is the most decorated player in North Carolina football history. The Tar Heels will promote him for the Heisman Trophy. He has intercepted 18 passes and made All-America twice in his two seasons, and his cover skills anchor the defense. He will be joined by seven new starters. Linebackers Keith Newman and Brandon Spoon, ends Ebenezer Ekuban and Mike Pringley, and tackle Russell Davis will play bigger roles in replacing the galaxy of stars who completed their eligibility. Their task will be formidable. The Tar Heels finished in the top five nationally in total defense, run defense, pass defense, and scoring defense in the past two seasons.

Davenport earned the team's offensive MVP award despite missing three

ALL-ATLANTIC COAST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Brian Kuklick	SR	Wake Forest
RB	Travis Minor	SO	Florida State
RB	LaMont Jordan	SO	Maryland
WR	Torry Holt	SR	N.C. State
WR	Peter Warrick	JR	Florida State
TE	Alge Crumpler	JR	North Carolina
OL	Jeff Flowe	SR	Wake Forest
OL	Ross Brannon	SO	Florida State
OL	Jason Whitaker	JR	Florida State
OL	Mike Gimbel	JR	North Carolina
OL	Craig Page	SR	Georgia Tech
PK	Sebastian Janikowski	SO	Florida State

DEFENSE

DL	Adrian Dingle	SR	Clemson
DL	Chris Combs	JR	Duke
DL	Antonio Dingle	SR	Virginia
DL	Mike Pringley	SR	North Carolina
LB	Lamont Green	SR	Florida State
LB	Kelvin Moses	SR	Wake Forest
LB	Rahim Abdullah	JR	Clemson
CB	Dré Bly	JR	North Carolina
CB	Antwan Edwards	SR	Clemson
SS	Anthony Poindexter	SR	Virginia
FS	Dexter Jackson	SR	Florida State
P	Rodney Williams	SR	Georgia Tech

ATLANTIC COAST



Alge Crumpler, North Carolina

games, including the Gator Bowl romp over Virginia Tech, with an ankle injury. He holds the school's top spot for career completion percentage and will be working with solid receivers in tight end Alge Crumpler, one of the nation's best at his position, and wideouts Na Brown and L.C. Stevens. Brown is the only UNC player ever with two seasons with 50 or more catches, and Stevens offers big-play possibilities. The offensive line, however, "is totally up for grabs," says Torbush, who was promoted after Mack Brown bolted to the University of Texas.

GEORGIA TECH

The Yellow Jackets must replace a pair of big-play wide receivers and a record-setting linebacking duo, but there are reasons aplenty for optimism. Tech (7-5, 5-3) is coming off its first seven-win season since 1991 and crept into the national ranking at 25th on the strength of its Carquest Bowl victory over West Virginia.

Quarterback Joe Hamilton heads a cast that includes 15 returning starters, a

wealth of experience that enables coach George O'Leary to talk in terms of fine-tuning rather than rebuilding.

"From an offensive standpoint, we're looking for consistency," O'Leary says. "We have to improve our protection and our run-blocking, and we need to establish the line of scrimmage. On defense, we need to attack more, which will lead to more turnovers. Pass rush and coverage are areas we really need to improve."

Hamilton grew by leaps and bounds as a sophomore a year ago and finished with a flourish. In the final five games, he threw for seven touchdowns and ran for four. He goes into the new season with a streak of 151 passes without an interception. He set Tech single-season records for total offense (2,792 yards), completion percentage (.646), and passing efficiency (146.6) in quietly accumulating the best year statistically by a Tech quarterback.

Although he will be throwing to new receivers, including freshman sensation Kerry Watkins, Hamilton should benefit from improved pass protection with four of the five interior line regulars returning. Center Craig Page begins his third season as a starter and will anchor the

front. Tailbacks Charles Wiley and Charlie Rogers and fullbacks Ed Wilder and Virgil Johnson comprise Tech's best running corps in years.

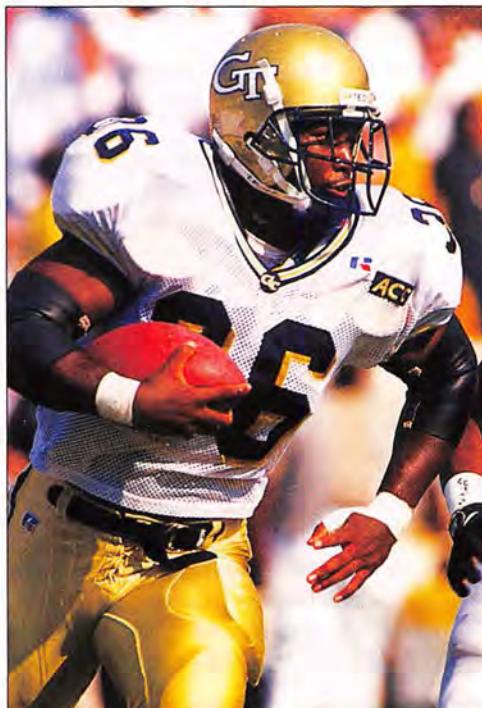
Seniors Justin Robertson and Delauta Cameron will be counted on to plug the holes at linebacker left by the departure of Keith Brooking and Ron Rogers. The secondary returns all four starters, and O'Leary believes his defensive ends "should be fine," and that the defensive interior has "the mobility and size to get the job done." An added defensive weapon is all-ACC punter Rodney Williams, who set a school record with a 45.6-yard average a year ago.

CLEMSON

To say the Tigers (7-5, 4-4) face a major rebuilding job is an understatement. Coach Tommy West must replace Nealon Greene, the school's all-time passing leader; Raymond Priester, the school's all-time rushing leader; Anthony Simmons, the school's No. 2 career tackler, who turned pro a year early; and Tony Horne, a record-setting wide receiver. Throw in the absence of a pair of four-year starters on the offensive line, All-America tackle Jim Bundren and all-ACC guard Glenn Rountree, plus tight end Lamont Hall, and the picture comes into focus.

The offense must replace players who hold 60 school records, and a fractured ankle suffered by heir-apparent quarterback Brandon Streeter in spring drills

Charles Wiley, Georgia Tech





Antwan Edwards, Clemson

complicated the rebuilding timetable. Streeter, the only quarterback with any college game experience, will battle Woody Dantzler and Slade Nagle for the job in the fall. Holland Postell, a two-year starter at tackle, returns in the line, and Mal Lawyer and Brian Wofford bring experience at wideout. Javis Austin and Terry Witherspoon each mustered more than 220 yards rushing last season.

"I would like to continue [defensively] exactly where we left off last year," West says of the unit that returns six starters. "In the last three games, we played defense like we are used to watching around here." In those games Clemson limited North Carolina to 67 yards rushing, made timely interceptions against South Carolina, and held Auburn to 107 yards rushing and a 34 percent completion rate. Antwan Edwards, who started games at cornerback and at safety, end Adrian Dingle, and linebacker Rahim Abdullah head the unit.

WAKE FOREST

The Deacons went into November of 1997 in a rare circumstance: with visions of a bowl game dancing in their heads. Their dream did not come true, but their 5-6 overall mark (3-5 in the ACC) provides some reason for excitement this fall. Not only did their record improve, but the statistics zoomed upward. With 16 starters returning, opti-

mism on campus is more than a word in the dictionary.

"We have obviously made some major strides in developing our team speed and strength," coach Jim Caldwell says on the eve of his sixth season in Winston-Salem. "We require our people to do more, so we have to be durable. Last year we let a couple of games get away from us because we lost our edge in the fourth quarter."

Wake increased its scoring by nine points a game to 22.3 and lowered its points allowed by eight to 26.2. Offensive yardage grew to 359 per game, the school's best in the 1990s, and the Deacons made a major improvement against the run by lowering their yield 158 yards a game to 96.1. Caldwell calls the performance "a confidence-builder."

Leading the offense will be quarterback Brian Kuklick, who has thrown for more than 5,000 yards in his career. He completed 61 percent of his passes a year ago. Desmond Clark, the ACC's leading receiver, again will be the top target. Morgan Kane heads the running game that

operates behind a line sparked by three-year starter Jeff Flowe at tackle and guard Sam Settar.

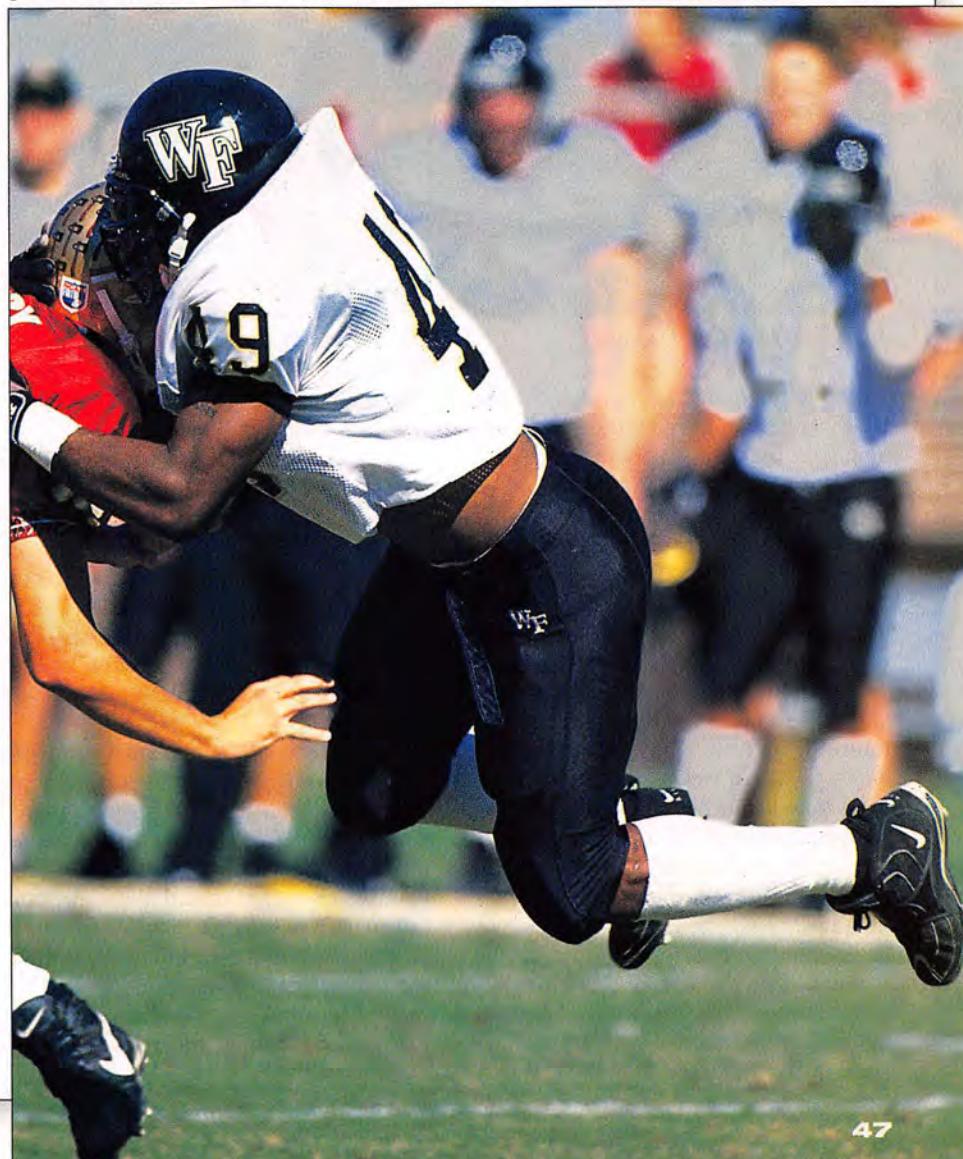
Linebackers Kelvin Moses and Dustin Lyman, the team's top tacklers, return, and the secondary, with three regulars back, should be improved. Depth and inexperience are concerns on the line.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Although conference rushing leader Tremayne Stephens must be replaced, quarterback Jamie Barrette returns, and moving the football should be no problem for the Wolfpack (6-5, 3-5). Stopping the opposition? Well, that's another question. Only four starters return from the unit that allowed 380 yards and over 24 points a game.

State's late-season success, a three-game winning streak that likely saved coach Mike O'Cain's job, came on the strength of the ACC's second-best offense. Seven regulars are back, and the spotlight

Kelvin Moses, Wake Forest



ATLANTIC COAST



Torry Holt, North Carolina State

will be on junior tailback Rahshon Spikes. If he can handle the position vacated by Stephens, the offense should purr again. Barnette, a junior, starts for the third year. He completed 57 percent of his passes for 2,378 yards and 19 touchdowns. All-ACC Torry Holt (62 catches for 1,099 yards and 17 TDs) heads a solid corps of wideouts, who expect to get more chances with the departure of tight end Mark Thomas.

Thomas's replacements are stronger and better blockers and join four regulars returning up front. The big question will be the health of tackle Ian Rafferty, who tore a knee ligament in the tenth game last season and missed all of spring practice.

Junior middle linebacker Sheldon Kee, the leading returning tackler, will see new faces everywhere on the defense. Senior end Bobbie Cotten and tackle Andre Wray rejoin Kee, but the other line spots are open. The Wolfpack also must replace linebackers Morocco Brown and

Duan Everett. Junior cornerback Tony Scott, who led the ACC by breaking up 18 passes, and strong safety Eric Riddick head a sound secondary.

DUKE

Fred Goldsmith begins his fifth season at Duke (2-9, 0-8) with 16 returning starters and high hopes of erasing some painful memories from the recent past. Just last season, five of the losses came by a touchdown or less, or in overtime.

Nine of those starters are defenders, and Goldsmith expects the experience gained last fall to spell improvement over the 31 points and 409 yards a game surrendered a year ago. Tackle Chris Combs has 14 sacks and 28 tackles for loss in his two seasons. Linebackers Ryan Stallmeyer and Kevin Lewis combined for 208 tackles in '97. Stallmeyer had 17 tackles against Maryland and Lewis caused 3.5 fumbles, one of which was

returned for a touchdown.

Injuries decimated the offense, but the lessons learned by the younger players should pay dividends this fall. If nothing else, the Blue Devils will have much more depth. Scottie Montgomery gives Duke a threat at wide receiver, and sophomore quarterbacks Bobby Campbell and Spencer Romine should be more comfortable with a year under their belts. The pair combined for over 1,300 passing yards and five touchdowns. Tailbacks Duane Epperson and Letavious Wilks and fullback Dawud Rasheed are solid. Three linemen must be found to join guard Lennie Friedman and tackle Austin Smithwick.

A plus comes from kicker Sims Lenhardt and punter Brian Morton, who are special among specialists. Lenhardt had a school-record 16 field goals and missed only two inside 50 yards. Morton averaged 41.4 yards on 60 punts.

MARYLAND

When a coach talks about needing to continue to develop his rushing attack and to make improvements in the passing game, you know his offense needs a lot of work. Maryland's Ron Vanderlinden makes those observations in looking to 1998—and with good reason: The Terps (2-9, 1-7) were last in the league in total offense, rushing offense, passing offense, and scoring offense last season.

Those rankings must change before the Terps make an impact in the ACC. The chances? The quarterback will be new, but four regulars on the line plus both wide receivers and the leading rusher return. Tailback LaMont Jordan rushed for 689 yards and caught 22 passes for 155 yards and finished second in the league's rookie-of-the-year balloting. Vanderlinden, beginning his second season in College Park, expects a significant upgrade on the line. Junior Ken Mastrole gets first crack at quarterback.

But the 2-9 record cannot be blamed entirely on the lack of offense. Maryland allowed 402 yards and 32 points a game. Seniors Kendall Ogle and Eric Barton are a high-powered duo at linebacker, but three starters up front must be replaced and the secondary is cause for concern.

"I absolutely think Maryland should be one of the premier programs in the country," Vanderlinden said in taking the Maryland job in December of 1996. He found out last season just how far he must go to reach that goal.

BIG EAST

The return of the marquee players offers promise for '98.

BY JEFF WHITE

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Things can only get better for the Big East. Just three of its teams finished with an overall winning record last fall, and every team had at least four losses. Eighth-place Rutgers (0-11) was one of the most overmatched squads in Division I-A.

Criticism of the league intensified after a woeful showing in the postseason. Conference champion Syracuse got hammered 35-18 by Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl, Big East runner-up Virginia Tech got annihilated 42-3 by North Carolina in the Gator, Pittsburgh got crushed 41-7 by Southern Mississippi in the Liberty, and West Virginia fell 35-30 to Georgia Tech in the Carquest.

The 1998 season looks more promising. Many of the league's marquee players are back, including Syracuse quarterback Donovan McNabb, the Big East offensive player of the year, and tailback Amos Zereoue and linebacker Gary Stills of West Virginia. In all, 26 players who were first- or second-team all-conference return.

The Big East's traditional power, Miami, still reeling from NCAA sanctions, went 5-6 last fall, its first losing record since 1979. Coach Butch Davis has numerous starters back and finally was able to award a full complement of scholarships this year. It may be awhile before the Hurricanes challenge for another national championship, but they could battle West Virginia and Syracuse for Big East supremacy this year.

West Virginia will be favored to win its second Big East title. The Mountaineers return a host of impact players and should benefit from a schedule that includes home games with Miami, Syracuse, and Boston College. Syracuse could repeat if its inexperienced defense isn't overwhelmed. Virginia Tech, which won or shared Big East titles in 1995 and '96, will vie with rejuvenated Boston College for fourth place.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Donovan McNabb,
QB, Syracuse

DEFENSE:

Gary Stills,
LB, West Virginia

NEWCOMER:

Brandon Williams,
RB, Pittsburgh

GAMES TO WATCH

Ohio State at
West Virginia,
September 5

Tennessee at Syracuse,
September 5

Syracuse at Michigan,
September 12

Syracuse at
West Virginia,
November 7

WEST VIRGINIA

Long-time coach Don Nehlen deemed his team's performance in spring practice "average," but there should be nothing average about these Mountaineers, who open against Ohio State in Morgantown. Eight players who made all-Big East a year ago return, and that does not include receiver David Saunders, who was a first-team honoree in 1996. Saunders missed last season with a knee injury but is expected to play this year.

WVU's prospects soared when junior tailback Amos Zereoue, a Heisman candidate, decided not to enter the NFL draft. Zereoue was the nation's third-leading rusher in '97. Rejoining him from a 7-5 team are junior quarterback Marc Bulger, who passed for 2,112 yards during the season and for 353 in the Gator Bowl, plus receivers Shawn Foreman (77 catches for 928 yards) and Pat Greene, tackle Solomon Page, center Eric de Groh, and guards Randy Dunnigan and

Bryan Pukenas. Another weapon is junior kicker Jay Taylor, a Lou Groza Award semifinalist.

Nehlen's top off-season priority? Shoring up a defense that contributed heavily to WVU's late-season swoon (four losses in the last five games). Staying healthy would help. The Mountaineers lost numerous starters to injuries in '97. They will rebuild around three first-team all-Big East seniors: tackle John Thornton, linebacker Gary Stills, and cornerback Nate Terry. Another gifted player, Damon Cogdell, is questionable because of a hip injury.

Players at new positions include linebacker Mark Plants, a former fullback, and safety Jerry Porter, an ex-receiver. Terry is one of five players in a secondary with starting experience. If the defensive backs can avoid the costly mistakes that plagued them last season, WVU should prosper.

SYRACUSE

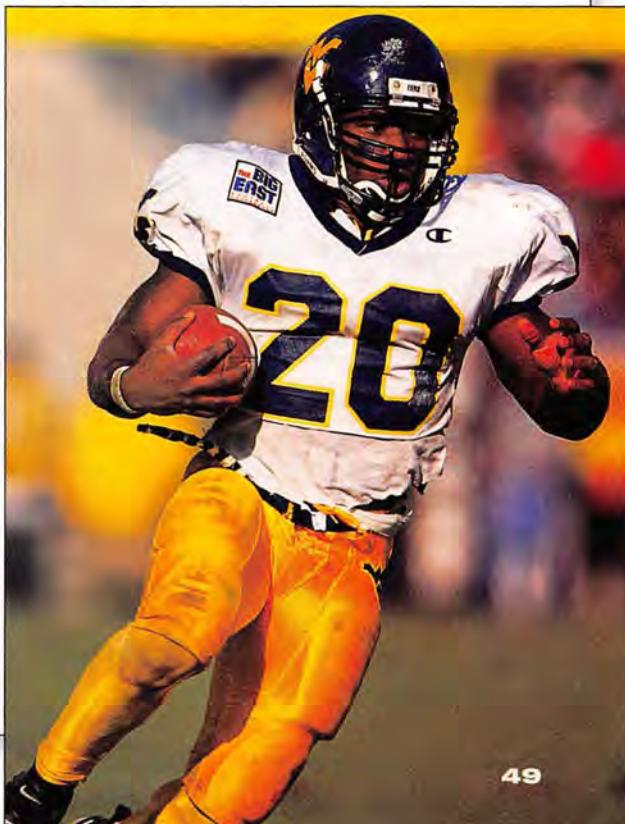
PREDICTIONS

1. West Virginia
2. Syracuse
3. Miami
4. Virginia Tech
5. Boston College
6. Pittsburgh
7. Temple
8. Rutgers

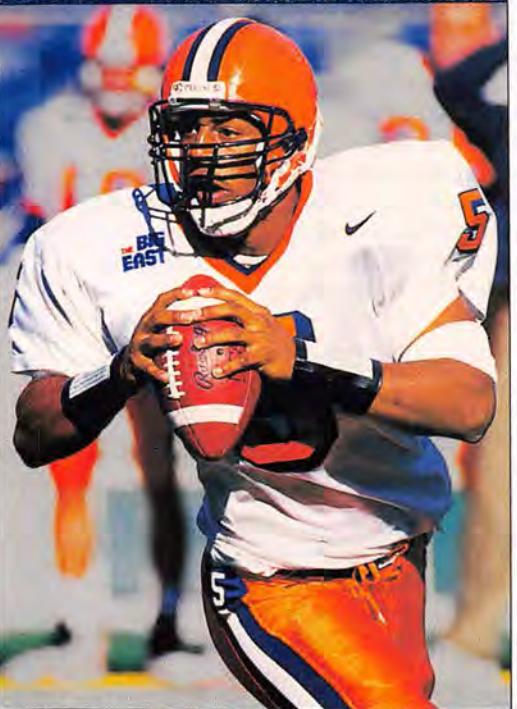
After four games last season the Orangemen were 1-3. They will be delighted if they don't start 0-2 this time. Syracuse opens at home against Tennessee and then visits defending national champion Michigan. As daunting as those opponents may be, however, Syracuse is capable of putting up big numbers against both. The key to the season will be its inexperienced defense.

Syracuse set a Big East scoring record (423 points) and five school marks for offense in 1997. That's what happens when your quarterback is Donovan McNabb. The Heisman candidate is trying to become the first player to make the all-Big East first team four times. McNabb, the conference offensive player of the year, is surrounded by con-

Amos Zereoue, West Virginia



BIG EAST



Donovan McNabb, Syracuse

siderable talent, including all-conference receiver Quinton Spotwood, tailback Kyle McIntosh, and fullback Rob Konrad, who is coming off knee surgery and missed spring drills. Standout tight end Roland Williams is gone, but three starters return on the line: tackle Mark Baniewicz, guard Scott Kiernan, and center Cory Bowen.

Special teams are a strength. Nate Trout is an outstanding kicker, and the Orangemen have the conference's top two return specialists in Spotwood and Kevin Johnson. Spotwood, who tied an NCAA record in '97 with four punt returns for touchdowns, is the Big East

special teams player of the year.

On defense, however, Syracuse must replace seven starters, among them safeties (and first-round NFL draft picks) Donovin Darius, the Big East defensive player of the year, and Tebucky Jones and all-conference linebacker Antwaune Ponds. The incumbents are tackle Brian Coleman, linebackers Keith Bulluck and Morlon Greenwood, and safety Phil Nash. The other safety, Jason Poles, was a reserve last season, but he has all-conference potential.

The Orangemen could go far if their defense can measure up to their offense.

MIAMI

The worst is over. The once-feared Hurricanes are finally free of NCAA sanctions and appear ready to rejoin the Big East elite. Fourth-year coach Butch Davis concluded spring practice with "the most optimism that we've had since I've been here," he said.

Thirteen starters return, as well as veteran kicker/punter Andy Crosland. Still, this is a young team that figures to be much stronger in 1999. Only four seniors are likely to start this year.

Ty Wise returns at center and Robert Sampson at tackle. Davis also welcomes back guard Richard Mercier, a two-year starter who redshirted last season with a knee injury. Elsewhere, the 'Canes are loaded. Quarterback Scott Covington backed up Ryan Clement last fall, but he has passed for 1,561 yards. His receivers include Big East rookie of the year Reggie Wayne, Daryl Jones, and Santana Moss,

Daniel Franks, Miami



all of whom played as true freshmen in '97. All-Big East junior tailback Edgerrin James became only the third player in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards. His backup, James Jackson, set a UM freshman record with 595 yards. Sophomore tight end Daniel Franks was second-team all-conference, but he's being challenged by junior Mondrel Fulcher, the talk of spring practice.

Miami's biggest worry on defense is the secondary, where senior cornerback Nate Brooks is the only returning regular. Nick Ward is a promising cornerback. Al Blades, brother of former UM stars Bennie and Brian Blades, will probably start at safety after missing last season with a knee injury.

Back at tackle are Damione Lewis, a sophomore with NFL potential, and Chad Pegues. Linebackers Dan Morgan, the 'Canes' leading tackler, and Nate Webster played as true freshmen last fall. Rejoining them on the unit are Michael Smith, one of the fastest Hurricanes, and Rod Mack.

VIRGINIA TECH

The Hokies hope their stout defense and exceptional kicking game can carry them to a sixth straight bowl bid. Just three offensive starters are back from a 7-5 squad that stumbled down the stretch. Worse for 12th-year coach Frank Beamer, one of those starters, senior quarterback Al Clark, is hobbled by a knee injury. If Clark is not available, little-used sophomore Dave Meyer or a true freshman, possibly Michael Vick, will get the call.

All is well with Tech's kicking game. Punter Jimmy Kibble (45.1-yard average) and place-kicker Shayne Graham, both juniors, were first-team all-Big East. Graham hit 19 of 23 field goals and ranked third in the Big East in points (92).

Tech's defense struggled late last season, allowing 106 points and over 1,000 yards in the last three games, but it has the talent to make a full recovery. Eight starters are back, including senior first-team all-conference safety Pierson Prioleau and second-teamer John Engelberger, who is moving from end to tackle. Other veterans include linebacker Jamel Smith, tackles Nat Williams and Carl Bradley, cornerback Anthony Midget, and senior safety Keion Carpenter.

If only Beamer had similar experience on offense. Among the departed regulars are four players picked in the NFL draft and two others who signed

free-agent pro contracts. Besides Clark, the returning starters are senior linemen Dwight Vick and Derek Smith. Replacing Ken Oxendine at tailback will be Lamont Pegues (391 yards) and Shyrone Stith, who redshirted last season but ran for 486 yards and five TDs in '96. Tech's receiving corps, bolstered by newcomers Ricky Hall and Andre Davis, looks improved. The top returning receiver is senior Angelo Harrison.

BOSTON COLLEGE

Tom O'Brien's take on his first season as the Eagles' coach? "The hole was a lot deeper than we thought it was here."

B.C. lost five straight during one stretch last year and finished 4-7. Happier times are ahead, however. Thirteen starters return, plus kicker John Matich and punter Jason Malecki. "I think we're 100 percent better than we were last year," O'Brien said after spring practice.

Spring ended without a decision on Matt Hasselbeck's successor at quarterback. The top candidates are senior Scott Mutrym and sophomore Tim Hasselbeck, Matt's brother. There's talent at tailback with Mike Cloud (886 yards) and Quinton Lee (313 yards in five games). Among those clearing a running path are senior tackle Doug Brzezinski and junior center Damien Woody, who were first- and second-team all-conference, respectively.

Four receivers return, though the most productive one, Dennis Harding, may not be academically eligible. In eight games, Anthony DiCosmo had 24 catches for 362 yards and four TDs. All-Big East tight end Todd Pollack must be replaced.

B.C. looked to linebacker Erik Storz, the Big East leader with 13 sacks, for big plays last season. Storz's departure has left a void, but among the defensive regulars back are all-conference tackle Chris Hovan, second-team all-conference safety Pedro Cirino, tackle Mike Willetts (5 sacks), linebackers Brooke Heald and Adam Newman, and safety George White. They are all juniors. Few seniors, in fact, figure to contribute, which bodes well for the future.

PITTSBURGH

The Walt Harris Era got off to a splendid start at Pitt. In his first season, the former Ohio State assistant was named Big East coach of the year after guiding the Panthers (6-6) to a third-place finish and their first bowl



Chris Hovan, Boston College

appearance since 1989. With 16 seniors from last year's team gone, another bowl bid seems unlikely, but Harris brought in 12 junior college recruits to hasten the rebuilding process.

Eleven starters return. Harris must replace, among others, quarterback Pete Gonzalez, who led the conference in total offense, and tailbacks Billy West and Dwayne Schulters. Senior Matt Lytle played little in 1997, but he has passed for 1,646 yards. Sophomore Kevan Barlow, freshman Brandon Williams, and JC transfer Ike Williams will compete at tailback. Tony Thompson returns at fullback.

Only two scholarship receivers took

part in spring drills, but one was Terry Murphy, who set a Big East record with 13 touchdown catches last fall. Senior Juan Williams is solid at tight end. Harris's biggest concern might be the line, where center Andrew Grischow and guard Ethan Weidle are the only starters back.

Three defensive regulars return on the line and two in the secondary. Only one starting linebacker is back, but it's senior Phil Clarke, Pitt's leading tackler and a second-team all-Big East pick. Junior Karim Thompson and redshirt freshman Nick Cole may start on either side of him. All-conference tackle Frank Moore is gone, but ends Julian Graham and Marlin Young return, as does tackle Jeff McCurley. Cornerbacks Tray Crayton

ALL-BIG EAST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Donovan McNabb	SR	Syracuse
RB	Amos Zereoue	JR	West Virginia
RB	Edgerrin James	JR	Miami
WR	Quinton Spotwood	JR	Syracuse
WR	Reggie Wayne	SO	Miami
TE	Daniel Franks	SO	Miami
OL	Solomon Page	JR	West Virginia
OL	Doug Brzezinski	SR	Boston College
OL	Damien Woody	JR	Boston College
OL	Eric de Groh	SR	West Virginia
OL	Scott Kiernan	SR	Syracuse
PK	Shayne Graham	JR	Virginia Tech

DEFENSE

DL	Chris Hovan	JR	Boston College
DL	John Engelberger	JR	Virginia Tech
DL	John Thornton	SR	West Virginia
DL	Damione Lewis	SO	Miami
LB	Gary Stills	SR	West Virginia
LB	Phil Clarke	SR	Pittsburgh
LB	Dan Morgan	SO	Miami
DB	Pierson Prioleau	SR	Virginia Tech
DB	Nate Terry	SR	West Virginia
DB	Pedro Cirino	JR	Boston College
DB	Phil Nash	SR	Syracuse
P	Jimmy Kibble	JR	Virginia Tech

BIG EAST

and Hank Poteat are backed up by Chifon Allen and Chuck Brown. Seth Hornack and D.J. Dinkins are the top candidates at the safety positions.

TEMPEL

Coach Bobby Wallace, who ruled Division II at North Alabama (82-36-1), where he won three national titles (1993-95), inherits a program that made progress last season under Ron Dickerson. The Owls' 3-4 league mark was their best ever in the Big East; their overall record (3-8) was their finest since 1990. Temple enters its 100th season of football with realistic hopes for improvement.

Wallace installed the system his North Alabama teams ran with such success. It incorporates elements of the wishbone and the single-wing and requires a running quarterback. The leading candidates are senior Pat Bonner and junior Kevin Harvey, who split time last season.

Also back is the "Mack and Jack Attack." Running backs Stacey Mack and Elmarko Jackson each finished with more than 1,000 all-purpose yards last fall. The line returns almost intact, led by guards Konrad Dean and Scott Oster, tackle Tim Leach, and center Charlie Morris. Senior Kenyatta Carter, a dangerous kick-returner, will also play wideout.

Senior safety Jerry Urias, Temple's leading tackler, is one of six returning defensive regulars. That group also includes linebackers Kenyatta Williamson,

Jacki Crooks, Rutgers



52



Phil Clarke, Pittsburgh

W. Deion McCallum, and LeVar Talley. The line isn't as experienced, with senior end Michael Tripp (9 sacks) the lone returning starter. Cornerback Tom Indio started in 1996 but missed last season with an ankle injury. Other veterans include cornerback Lamond Adams.

RUTGERS

Terry Shea has two victories to show for his first two seasons as the Scarlet Knights' coach, and both came in 1996 (one against Division I-AA Villanova). Rutgers has lost 14 straight games, and its long-suffering fans won't have much to cheer this season. The best chance for a victory will come in their opener against I-AA Richmond.

Still, Rutgers averaged 25.4 points in its last five games, and eight starters return on offense, led by quarterback Mike McMahon. As a true freshman last year, McMahon passed for 1,259 yards. Round-

ing out the backfield are junior tailback Jacki Crooks (758 yards) and senior fullback Gary Fauntleroy. Seniors Bill Powell and Andy Holland (28 catches) and junior Walter King head the receivers. Tight end should be another strength, with seniors Chris Hutton and Billy Woodard. The line, too, is essentially intact. Guards Ben French and Pete Donnelly and tackle Ryan Comeau started all 11 games, and Shaun O'Hara started nine at tackle.

There's no such stability across the line. Rutgers, which allowed 45.1 points per game, must replace its best player, linebacker Brian Sheridan, from a defense that ranked last in the Big East in virtually every category. Junior end Wayne Hampton is the only starting lineman back. Senior Aaron Brady will anchor the linebacking corps, with help from Tarrell Freeney and Gil Ross. Roger Wingate missed spring practice with a knee injury. In the secondary, sophomores Riley Jefferson and Dante Siciliano have the most experience. Former cornerback Reggie Stephens is now a receiver.

BIG TEN

Give the edge to Ohio State, which will host Michigan and Penn State.

BY ANDREW BAGNATO

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

For the last half-century or so, Big Ten teams had one goal: a trip to the Rose Bowl. Pasadena was the destination of choice for all, from mighty Michigan to lowly Illinois.

That changes this fall, when the Big Ten becomes a partner in college football's super alliance. Big Ten members are eligible to be chosen for the Fiesta Bowl, which aims this year to pit the top two teams in the country in a showdown for the national title.

Progress means a loss of tradition for the nation's oldest major athletic conference. The new arrangement could turn the Rose Bowl into a consolation prize. If the Big Ten champ winds up in Tempe, the conference will send an also-ran to Pasadena.

In recent years, the thought of a Big Ten team contending for No. 1 would have met with hoots of derision across the country. After all, the Big Ten endured nearly three decades of drought since Ohio State swept to the 1968 national crown. But when Michigan stormed to a 12-0 record last year and a share of the national title (with unbeaten Nebraska), the notion didn't seem so absurd.

By becoming a full super-alliance partner, the Big Ten has altered its focus. For years, it had been one of the more provincial conferences, concerned only with the trench warfare conducted on its campuses every Saturday. Coaches hesitated even to discuss the national title because they knew they wouldn't get a shot at Nebraska, Florida, and Florida State in the postseason.

This year, they might. But if the national title is beyond the grasp of most Big Ten members, the Rose Bowl is not. A different school has represented the conference in Pasadena every New Year's Day since 1994, when the Wisconsin Badgers showed up for the first time in three decades. That balance has become a trademark of the Big Ten and makes it tricky to pick the race. The usual lords (Michigan, Ohio State, and Penn State) will be in the hunt. But recent history indicates that a plucky serf will rise into contention by the time the leaves fall in the Midwest.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Ron Dayne,
RB, Wisconsin

DEFENSE:

Andy Katzenmoyer,
LB, Ohio State

NEW COMER:

Terrance Smalls,
WR, Illinois

GAMES TO WATCH

Michigan at Notre Dame, September 5

Penn State at Ohio State, October 3

Michigan at Ohio State, November 21

OHIO STATE

He has defeated Michigan just twice in 10 tries. How does John Cooper survive in the place formerly known as the Graveyard of Coaches? By beating just about everybody else. As Cooper (86-32-4 at OSU) enters his 11th year in Columbus, the record shows that he has restored the Scarlet and Gray to its place among the nation's elite. OSU has won at least 10 games in four of the last five years, and it won nine in the other. Success breeds expectations, and thus the faithful expect at least a trip to the Rose Bowl—if not the Fiesta Bowl, where the national title will be sorted out on January 4.

Senior Joe Germaine has led the league in passing efficiency each of the past two seasons as he split duty with Stanley Jackson. If Germaine stumbles,

Cooper will call on senior Mark Garcia. The rest of the attack is loaded: blazing junior tailback Michael Wiley averaged 5.6 yards per carry off the bench. The receiving corps is among the best in the country, led by David Boston, who had the most receptions (73) and touchdown catches (14) among Big Ten receivers.

The defense remains rugged, with nine starters returning from the rock-ribbed unit that ranked No. 7 nationally in total defense, conceding only 17 touchdowns and 277.6 yards per game. Middle linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer requires constant double-team attention. Senior cornerback Antoine Winfield might be the best in the conference now that Michigan's Charles Woodson has moved on to the NFL. Teams that try to avoid Winfield have to confront strong safety Damon Moore. It's no wonder opponents hit on only seven scoring passes a year ago.

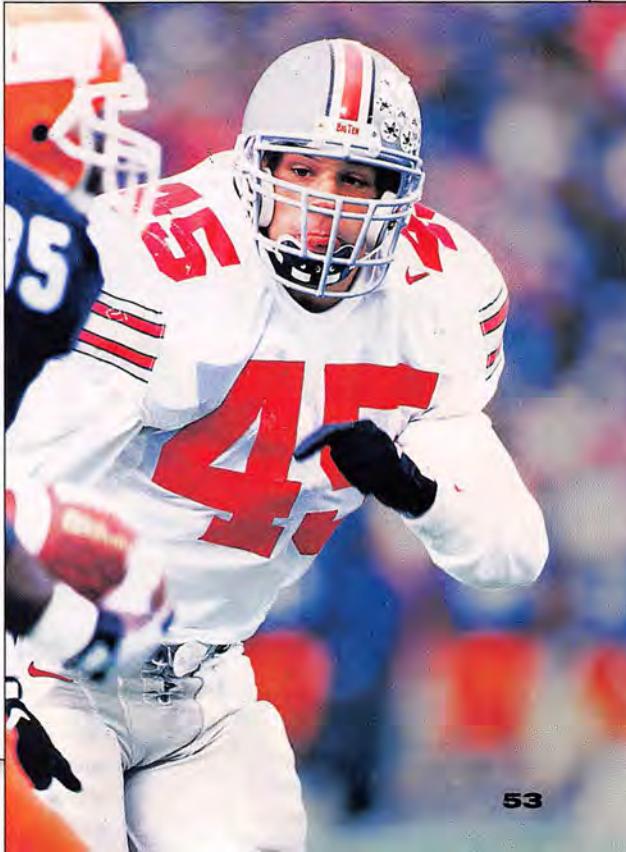
Looking for reasons to anoint the Buckeyes in the conference race? Check the schedule, which sends

Penn State, Michigan State, and Michigan into the old gray horseshoe. Ohio State's toughest road test is against Iowa in mid-November. That's when the Hawkeyes usually fade—and when these Buckeyes will likely be zeroing in on their second conference crown in three years.

MICHIGAN

It took almost half a century, but Michigan finally did it, grabbing a share of the school's first national title since 1948. All the pieces fell into place. Michigan had the nation's best defense, the Heisman Trophy winner in versatile cornerback/wide

Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State



BIG TEN

receiver/punt returner Charles Woodson, a steady but unheralded quarterback in Brian Griese, and a calm leader in coach Lloyd Carr.

Carr is back, and for the first time in four years he can conduct preseason drills without listening to Michigan fans whine that he's in over his head. The defense lost Woodson but returns key starters in each unit. So the biggest loss figures to be Griese, the Rose Bowl MVP. In the spring, Carr anointed Tom Brady as the successor but said that Scott Dreisbach and Jason Kapsner will also get a shot at the job.

There won't be a lack of targets, with All-America candidate Jerame Tuman returning at tight end and Tai Streets, who caught a couple of touchdown bombs in the Rose Bowl, at wide receiver. And running back is the focus of Michigan's attack. Look for Anthony Thomas and Clarence Williams to carry most of the load as replacements for Chris Floyd and Chris Howard. Carr and his staff would like to see how freshman Walter Cross and the highly touted Justin Fargas look in camp.

The schedule isn't quite so imposing. Michigan visits Notre Dame—always a challenge—but it should have easy vic-

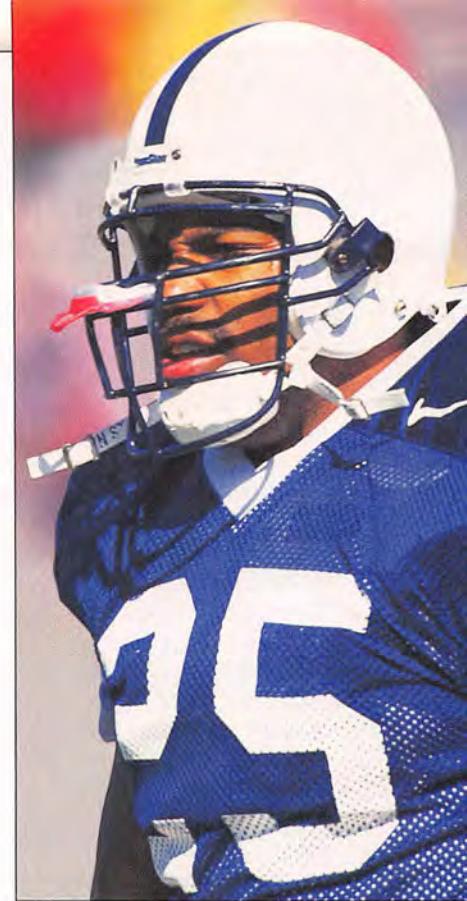
Jerame Tuman, Michigan

tories over Eastern Michigan and Hawaii. Five of the six conference rivals who played in bowls last year are on the schedule, but Illinois, one of the worst teams in recent Big Ten history, is not. The finale is at Ohio State—not that a trip to Columbus ever cowed the Wolverines, who have lost only once in Ohio Stadium since 1984. Michigan has a chance to become only the second team since 1979 to repeat as national champion.

PENN STATE

Barring an upset, Joe Paterno's 300th victory will come in Penn State's second game, against Bowling Green on September 12 in Happy Valley. Paterno will then set his sights on Bear Bryant, whose 323 victories are the most in major-college football history. The challenge this season for Paterno, who turns 72 in December, is to restore the fire to a team that was ranked No. 1 in early November before it suffered embarrassing blowout losses to Michigan and Michigan State.

The Nittany Lions have to replace quarterback Mike McQueary and tailback Curtis Enis. Redshirt junior Kevin Thompson or redshirt sophomore Rashard Casey will be the new quarterback. But in Paterno's attack, the tailback reigns, and Penn State is deeper than most here. Cordell Mitchell and Chris



Aaron Harris, Penn State

Eberly each averaged more than six yards per carry. Fullback Aaron Harris is much more than a blocker. His touchdown runs turned the tide in last season's victory over Ohio State. Redshirt junior Chafie Fields is a game-breaking receiver. The line will be rebuilt after center Kevin Conlin and guard Phil Ostrowski left, but Penn State always seems to have plenty of horses up front.

The defensive deficiencies were glaringly apparent in the Michigan and Michigan State games. The Nittany Lions conceded 187.9 yards per game on the ground, more than every Big Ten team but Northwestern and Illinois. That's bad news in a run-oriented conference.

In the past, great defenses have been built around go-getters such as junior Brandon Short, the heir to the legacy of Linebacker U. Short missed most of three games with an ankle injury but still recorded 12 tackles for loss, intercepted a pass, and broke up three others. There is only one other upperclassman, junior Maurice Daniels, in the linebacking unit.

The Nittany Lions are 31-9 in five years since joining the Big Ten, second only to Ohio State (32-7-1). It's been four years, however, since they have been to the Rose Bowl. They have the weapons to contend this year but caught no breaks from the Big Ten, which sends them to Ohio State, Michigan, and Wisconsin.



WISCONSIN

Wisconsin notched eight victories a year ago, but only one of them came against a team with a winning record: Iowa, by a field goal. Still, the Badgers drew their fourth bowl invitation in five years.

They are not likely to contend for the Rose Bowl, but figure to remain in the hunt for another bowl bid as long as junior tailback Ron Dayne, who was plagued by injuries last fall, remains healthy. His per-carry average dipped to 5.5 yards from 6.5 in his wondrous freshman year, though Dayne still managed to gain 1,457 yards, second in the conference. He needs just 144 yards to surpass Billy Marek as the school's leading career rusher.

Head coach Barry Alvarez's offense needs diversification, which means quarterback Mike Samuel (13 interceptions vs. 8 TD passes) has to improve. The skill players ought to have room to work behind one of the more massive front

Ron Dayne, Wisconsin



Street & Smith's College Football

ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Joe Germaine	SR	Ohio State
RB	Ron Dayne	JR	Wisconsin
RB	Aaron Harris	JR	Penn State
WR	David Boston	JR	Ohio State
WR	Dee Miller	SR	Ohio State
OL	Aaron Gibson	SR	Wisconsin
OL	Jeff Backus	SO	Michigan
OL	Steve Hutchinson	SO	Michigan
OL	Jon Jansen	SR	Michigan
OL	Ben Hamilton	SO	Minnesota
TE	Jerame Tuman	SR	Michigan
PK	Matt Davenport	SR	Wisconsin

DEFENSE

DE	Adewale Ogunleye	JR	Indiana
NT	Rob Renes	JR	Michigan
DE	Robaire Smith	JR	Michigan State
LB	Andy Katzenmoyer	JR	Ohio State
LB	Brandon Short	JR	Penn State
LB	Matt Hughes	SR	Iowa
LB	Barry Gardner	SR	Northwestern
CB	Antoine Winfield	SR	Ohio State
CB	Andre Weathers	SR	Michigan
S	Tyrone Carter	JR	Minnesota
S	Damon Moore	SR	Ohio State
P	Kevin Stemke	SO	Wisconsin

walls in the nation, anchored by Aaron Gibson (6-7, 371), the biggest tackle in Big Ten history.

Rush end Tom Burke, the team MVP, recorded 19 tackles for loss and recovered three fumbles. Inside linebacker Donnel Thompson, a former walk-on, led the team in tackles. The secondary was the meekest in the Big Ten, picking off a league-low eight passes and allowing a generous 8.7 yards per catch. The Badgers will have to be patient here, with

two new starting cornerbacks.

With a cheesy nonconference slate that includes UNLV and San Diego State and a beneficial Big Ten schedule (three of the first four foes had losing records), the Badgers figure to gain confidence early. But they'll still have to prove themselves in trips to Iowa and Michigan, as well as in a season-ending showdown at home with Penn State.

MICHIGAN STATE

The Spartans were the Big Ten's biggest bust. After winning their first five games and rising to No. 11 in the polls, they blew four straight. They bounced back to earn a late bid to the Aloha Bowl, but then were slaughtered 51-23 by Washington for their third post-season humiliation in a row.

Coach Nick Saban hopes last year's disaster will serve to motivate his team, which has developed a reputation for folding once it falls out of the hunt for the Rose Bowl. The humbler Spartans once again will rely heavily on tailback/kick returner Sedrick Irvin, the Big Ten's top returnee in all-purpose yardage (160.8 per game). They need more production at quarterback. Junior Bill Burke, who has had a chronic back problem, is the front-runner, but redshirt freshman Lorenzo Guess will get a shot.

The defensive line returns intact, led by right end Robaire Smith, the Big Ten's leading returning sack man. A young linebacking corps is headed by Mike Austin, Courtney Ledyard, and sophomore T.J. Turner. Cornerback Amp Campbell, the league's top returning interceptor, rejoins safeties Aric Morris and Sorie Kanu to make State's secondary among the best in the Big Ten.

Saban had big plans when he arrived in East Lansing three years ago. His 19-16-1 record, with three bowl losses, isn't what he had in mind. But with the

BIG TEN



Robaire Smith, Michigan State

roster now loaded with his recruits, the hardworking Saban is trying to pull the Spartans out of the mediocrity that set in shortly after their last Rose Bowl appearance in 1987. It won't be easy: State has to visit the Big Ten's big three (Ohio State, Penn State, and Michigan) and also takes on Notre Dame at home.

PURDUE

Under first-year coach Joe Tiller, Purdue stormed to its most wins (9) since 1980 and broke a 13-year bowl drought with an invitation to the Alamo Bowl, where it whipped Oklahoma State.

An encore won't be easy. Purdue lost seven players from the unit that led the nation's No. 7 offense. The Boilermakers gained 460 yards per game (tops in the Big Ten) and averaged 33 points (No. 2 in the league). Sophomore quarterback Drew Brees, who has completed only 19 passes, will try to replace Billy Dicken. It would help if the running game took the pressure off Brees, but Edwin Watson and Kendall Matthews are also gone. The premier returnee is senior Eric Haddad, a former tight end who has gained 100 career yards. The receiving picture is similarly muddled, with the departure of Brian

Alford, the school's all-time leader in receiving yards.

The offensive transition likely will take time, which means more pressure on a defense that finished near last in the Big Ten in yards allowed (401 per game) but sixth in points allowed (22.3)—the only real measure of a defense. A strong line is anchored by ends Roosevelt Colvin and Chukie Nwokorie. The secondary was a trouble spot a year ago. Purdue gave up

16 touchdown passes, but there was improvement as the season wore on. Free safety Adrian Beasley hopes to parlay defensive MVP honors in the Alamo Bowl into a big season.

With so much talent gone on offense, the Boilermakers could slip a bit. Tiller deserves credit for making a hoop-crazy campus care about football again. The Boilermakers have a tough nonconference schedule (including USC in the Pigskin Classic and at Notre Dame) but catch a break in the Big Ten, where they skip Michigan and Ohio State for the second year in a row.

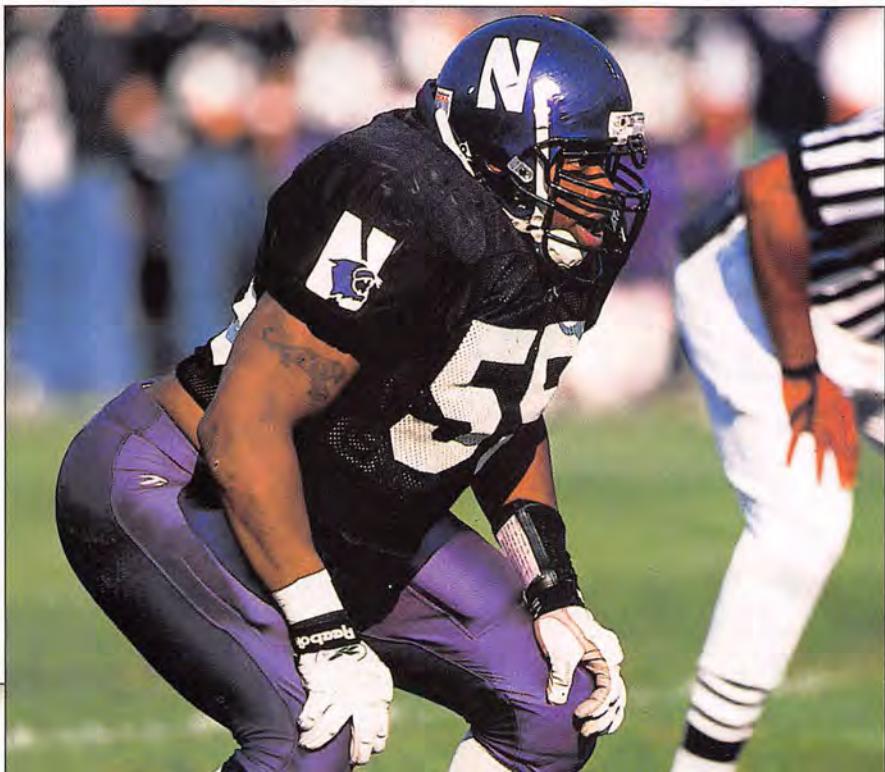
NORTHWESTERN

For the third consecutive December, Gary Barnett decided the grass isn't necessarily greener on the other side of the fence. After previous flirtations with Notre Dame, UCLA, and Georgia, Barnett last year found himself pursued by mighty Texas. He declared that he would remain at Northwestern for the length of his 12-year contract.

It was seen as an effort to combat rival recruiters, who had been telling prep stars that Barnett wasn't serious about staying at Northwestern. It was also interpreted as a sign that Barnett is committed to staying with the program he rebuilt. A skilled recruiter, Barnett has parlayed the stunning 1995 Rose Bowl season into enough talent to keep the Wildcats afloat for years to come.

Northwestern came back to earth last year, falling from Rose Bowl to no bowl,

Barry Gardner, Northwestern





Tyrone Carter, Minnesota

an experience shared in this decade by Iowa and Wisconsin. To contend for the postseason this year, NU needs to settle on a quarterback. Three inexperienced players, led by senior John McArthur, a transfer from Missouri, are competing. Whoever wins the job will find a prime target in senior D'Wayne Bates, who broke his leg in the first game last fall and sat out the season. He had 75 receptions for 1,196 yards and 12 TDs in 1996.

The defense needs beefing up after it allowed a whopping 188.5 yards per game on the ground. The linebacking corps is among the better ones in the Big Ten, led by senior Barry Gardner, a consensus first-team all-conference pick who led the Big Ten with 174 tackles.

If Northwestern can keep the games close, it has a big weapon in place-kicker Brian Gowins, who led the conference with a school-record 20 field goals a year ago.

IOWA

No, Hayden Fry was not coaching Iowa during the days of the Pony Express. It only seems as if he has been in Iowa City that long. He's in his 20th season as the head Hawkeye. Rival recruiters have been using Fry's age against him for years, but with his 70th birthday approaching next winter, Fry has maintained that he will keep coaching as long as he enjoys it.

Whether others enjoy it is another question. While the Hawkeyes' legions remain grateful to Fry for turning a woeful program into a perennial winner, there are signs of dissatisfaction. Iowa did not sell out its allotment of Sun Bowl tickets. The school's well-traveled fans apparently may no longer be content with invitations to who-cares bowl destinations.

The Hawkeyes have had a winning conference record only twice since earning a share of their last Big Ten title in 1990. If they are to improve on last year's sixth-place finish, they need a big year from junior Randy Reiners, who led the conference in passing efficiency after replacing the injured Matt Sherman. The passing game will need to carry the load until the Hawkeyes can settle on a successor to Tavian Banks, who rushed for a school-record 1,691 yards in 1997.

The defense was terrific, allowing just 275 yards a game, fewer than all Big Ten schools but Michigan. It figures to be strong again with All-America tackle Jared DeVries and leading tackler Matt Hughes, a linebacker, returning. The secondary plucked 22 interceptions a year

ago, but it will have three new starters.

A soft early schedule means Iowa could be 4-0 when defending national champ Michigan comes to Iowa City on October 3. An upset there could have the Hawkeyes talking Rose Bowl again.

MINNESOTA

At times last fall, Golden Gopher fans must have wondered if they had wandered into the wrong stadium. Gone was the wacky air-oriented attack favored by former coach Jim Wacker, replaced by the ground-it-out scheme of new coach Glen Mason. One thing did not change, though: the results. For the fourth consecutive season, Minnesota sputtered to a 1-7 record in the Big Ten.

The objectives this year are modest: Improve the defense and establish a running attack. The Big Ten gave Mason no break this year, sending the Gophers against all seven league teams that appeared in the last postseason.

The defense showed signs of

Matt Hughes, Iowa



BIG TEN

improvement last fall, though it conceded 37 touchdowns and finished last in the conference vs. the pass. It is never a good thing when your safety is No. 1 in tackles. The coaches hope junior Tyrone Carter won't have to lead the unit again.

Mason, schooled in the importance of linebackers under Woody Hayes at Ohio State, expects more from senior Parc Williams, who will switch from the inside to the outside. Sophomores Curteese Poole, a transfer who followed Mason from Kansas, and Sean Hoffman also figure to have an impact.

The Gophers will start a new quarterback for the first time in four years. Fleet junior Billy Cockerham will replace Cory Sauter, the owner of many school passing records. The more important position might be tailback, where Thomas Hamner needs to improve his production. The Gophers rushed for only 130.9 yards per game, ninth in the Big Ten. If the Gophers can't improve that number, they won't improve an offense that amassed a total of two field goals in late-season losses to Michigan, Ohio State, and Iowa.

Adewale Ogunleye, Indiana



INDIANA

IThere are rarities in life: rainbows, humble pro athletes, and Indiana touchdowns. The offense put the ball in the end zone 10 times last year, scoring just four rushing touchdowns (or about once per month). That's a sure way to struggle in the Big Ten, where the shortest distance to pay dirt traditionally is between the guard and the tackle.

With a rushing attack that netted only 90.8 yards per game, it was a wonder that Indiana won two games (Illinois and Ball State). Junior quarterback Jay Rodgers returns after completing 58.2 percent of his throws, the third-best season percentage in IU history. He will face a challenge from sophomore Earl Haniford and redshirt freshman Antwaan Randle El, whose quickness and strong arm make him one of the most highly touted recruits in school history.

On defense, the farther the Hoosiers get from the line of scrimmage, the deeper their troubles become. They will be strong up front, led by first-team all-Big Ten end Adewale Ogunleye, who had 21 tackles for loss. The linebacking corps thins quickly after leading tackler Jabar Robinson. The secondary fea-

tures a new set of cornerbacks.

If the defense can keep the Hoosiers close, they may sneak out a few wins on the toe of sophomore Andy Payne, who hit 15 field goals and twice tied the school record with four in a single game.

Coach Cam Cameron, a 37-year-old IU alumnus, has brought new excitement to the long-dormant program, but he wants to see improvement in the standings in his second year. Indiana opens with Western Michigan, but then faces tough road trips to border rival Kentucky and Cincinnati before wading into October and five straight Big Ten teams that played in bowls last season.

ILLINOIS

The Fighting Illini have lost 17 straight games, and they enter the season without Robert Holcombe, the university's all-time leading rusher. "The Incredible Holc" accounted for nearly half of the total offense last year.

That means more pressure on senior quarterback Mark Hoekstra, who threw twice as many interceptions (10) as TD passes in 1997. Hoekstra might lack for targets unless junior college transfer Terrence Smalls, who has game-breaking speed, emerges quickly.

That's why second-year Illini coach Ron Turner won't be smiling much. Illinois finished last in the conference in total offense, averaging a scant 286 yards a game, and it scored only 14 touchdowns, fewer than every team but Indiana. The scoreboard operator in Memorial Stadium can look forward to some nice naps again this fall, though the line will have the benefit of more experience.

The defense figures to be a bit better, molded around a line led by junior end Rameel Connor, who is expected back from a knee injury, along with three-year starting tackle Garrett Johnson. The Fighting Illini finished last in the Big Ten in pass-efficiency defense, allowing opponents to complete 59.7 percent of their passes. They also gave up 24 touchdown passes, more than one per half.

The schedule offers an opportunity in September to snap the losing skid. After opening at Pac-10 champ Washington State, Illinois expects a victory over Middle Tennessee State or Louisville, both of whom visit Memorial Stadium. Good news: The Illini do not play defending national champ Michigan. Bad news: They play at bowl teams Purdue, Penn State, and Michigan State in the final four weeks.

BIG 12

It will be Nebraska vs. Kansas State for the league crown.

BY TOM SHATEL

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Circle November 14 on your calendars. That's the day Nebraska travels to Manhattan, Kansas, for the biggest game in the history of Kansas State football. That's the day we'll know more about where first-year Nebraska coach Frank Solich's program is going and how far Wildcat genius Bill Snyder's program has come.

Solich, the long-time assistant to Tom Osborne, inherits one of the strongest programs in the nation—one whose strength will be tested this year. The Huskers play their toughest schedule in years with new faces at quarterback, I-back, and in the offensive line and with a new coach calling the plays.

If the Huskers fall a notch, Kansas State appears ready to ascend. The Wildcats return 18 starters off last year's 11-1 team and have their first Heisman Trophy candidate in senior Michael Bishop, who sent shock waves through the rest of the league with his brilliant 317-yard, four-touchdown passing performance in the Fiesta Bowl.

Colorado is as talented as ever and could be dangerous if it can find a quarterback. Missouri has as much momentum as anyone, coming off its first winning season and bowl trip since 1983 and a near-upset of Nebraska. With senior quarterback Corby Jones back, the Tigers should go bowling again.

The South Division starts, as always, with Texas, where new coach Mack Brown is trying to pump pride and life back into the program. The combination of Brown's discipline, defensive mind, and Heisman Trophy candidate Ricky Williams at running back should give the Longhorns the inside track to the league title game in St. Louis.

Texas A&M quarterback Brandon Stewart is back, as is Oklahoma State quarterback Tony Lindsay. They will duke it out with Texas at the top while Texas Tech, Oklahoma, and Baylor try to make progress at a lower level.

See you on November 14.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Ricky Williams,
RB, Texas

DEFENSE:

Dat Nguyen,
LB, Texas A&M

NEWCOMER:

Frank Murphy,
RB, Kansas State

GAMES TO WATCH

Washington at Nebraska,
September 26

Texas at Nebraska,
October 31

Nebraska at Kansas State, November 14

NORTH DIVISION

NEBRASKA

The Huskers don't rebuild, they reload, right? That time-worn cliché will be tested in Lincoln this season.

Believe it or not, the strength is on the defensive side, where the team lost first-round draft picks in rush end Grant Wistrom and tackle Jason Peter. But the coaches feel that seniors Mike Rucker and Chad Kelsay (who alternated opposite Wistrom last fall) will equal any pair of ends the school has had. Jason Wiltz and Steve Warren should fill the void left by Peter. Senior middle linebacker Jay Foreman is ready to emerge as a leader. The secondary of sophomores Erwin Swiney and Clint Finley and juniors Mike Brown and Ralph Brown is the strongest part of the

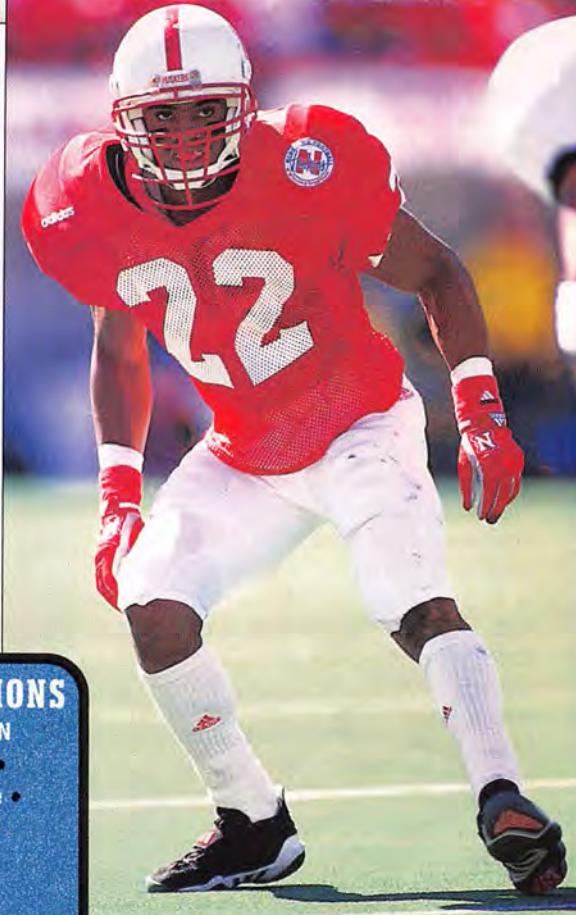
PREDICTIONS

NORTH DIVISION

1. Nebraska
2. Kansas State
3. Missouri
4. Colorado
5. Kansas
6. Iowa State

SOUTH DIVISION

1. Texas
2. Texas A&M
3. Oklahoma State
4. Oklahoma
5. Texas Tech
6. Baylor



Ralph Brown, Nebraska

unit. When was the last time they said that at Nebraska?

The defense will have to carry the team through most of the season. Solich had several unanswered questions on offense. The talented but raw sophomore Bobby Newcombe gives the Huskers their most explosive run-pass threat since Turner Gill (now the quarterbacks coach). Any talk of Newcombe staying at wingback was quickly abandoned after he dominated the Red-White spring game with 239 yards and two touchdowns. Now Newcombe has to grow.

That is also true of those around him. Sophomore I-back DeAngelo Evans, who wowed Husker fans with his smooth moves in 1996 (776 yards as a backup) before a frustrating and mysterious injury sidelined him for all of '97, is expected to be healthy. The line, built around senior center Josh Heskew, has four new parts—but what else is new?

The Huskers are counting on the line clicking as usual, Evans returning to form, and Newcombe emerging as the great quarterback the coaches think he can become. And all that by the Kansas State game. Meanwhile, can Solich come down from the press box to motivate and push the right buttons? It should be an interesting "reloading" year at Nebraska.

KANSAS STATE

The only criticism of Bill Snyder's amazing reclamation job remains the schedule. Given an opening this season, Snyder again turned to the

BIG 12

cupcake aisle, signing up Division I-AA Indiana State. K-State fans are too busy gearing up for the greatest season in school history. The Wildcats, with 18 returning starters, have virtually no holes.

They are explosive on offense with Michael Bishop, who is the league's premier returning quarterback (sorry, Corby Jones). In his first year at K-State, Bishop set school QB rushing records with 566 yards and nine touchdowns. He figures to get better, with Fiesta Bowl record-setting wide receiver Darnell McDonald, tight end Justin Swift, and dominating Ryan Young at tackle. The Wildcats' running game might be the best in the league with Frank Murphy, the national junior college player of the year (1,370 yards) at Garden City (KS). The NCAA granted a medical hardship and sixth year to Eric Hickson, who needs just 631 yards to break the K-State all-time rushing record.

Meanwhile, it will be hard to score on the Wildcats. They return perhaps the best linebacking corps in the Big 12 with Mark Simoneau, Jeff Kelly, and Travis Ochs, who missed spring drills after shoulder surgery but should be ready by the fall. End Darren Howard is one of the

Michael Bishop, Kansas State



Corby Jones, Missouri

best pass rushers around. The experienced secondary, led by free safety Lamar Chapman, will try to lead the Big 12 in pass defense for the fifth consecutive season. Place-kicker Martin Gramatica and punter James Garcia also return.

The schedule is set up perfectly, with Texas, Oklahoma State, and Nebraska all at home. The Wildcats travel to Colorado on October 10, but the Buffs may still be

developing a new quarterback. If the Wildcats can go 11-0, their only problem might be their soft nonconference schedule coming back to haunt them in the polls. But that's a problem the Wildcats would love to have.

MISSOURI

It was a breakthrough year for Missouri and quarterback Corby Jones in 1997. The Tigers had their first winning season and bowl trip since 1983 and lost to Nebraska on a miraculous play. Jones was the all-Big 12 quarterback. Neither Jones nor the Tigers will be a surprise to anyone in 1998, but that should not stop them.

The Tigers, who had the nation's No. 6 rushing attack (263.5 yards), should be able to run on just about anyone again. It starts with Jones, the savvy veteran whose option and play-action abilities drive defensive coordinators loony. Jones rushed for 887 yards while passing for 1,658 and accounted for 26 touchdowns.

It will help to have four starters back from a young line that grew under fire in 1997. Junior center Rob Riti and right tackle Todd Neimeyer will open holes for senior Devin West (544 yards), who takes over for Brock Olivo, the school's all-time leading rusher.

But coach Larry Smith isn't afraid to pass, not with his two leading receivers, senior tight end Eddie Brooks and junior Kent Layman, back. There was speculation this spring that Smith might use any



of three redshirt freshman tight ends (Dwayne Blakley, Brandon Ford, and Garrett Hill) as H-backs out of the backfield.

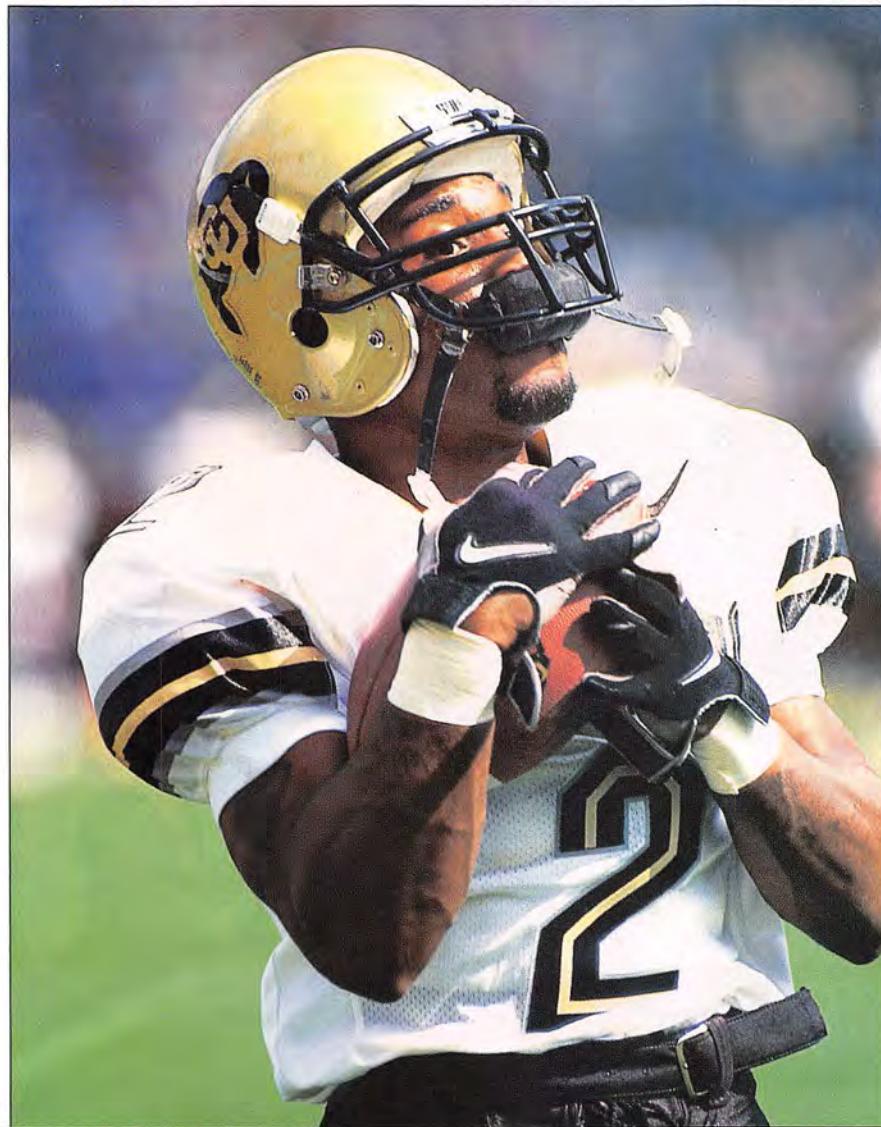
The Tigers, who ranked ninth in the league in defense, just need to get better at stopping somebody. They should be strong up front with senior end Marquis Gibson and nose guard Justin Wyatt and in the secondary, where three starters are back. But the linebacking is uncertain.

Despite a September 19 trip to Ohio State, the Tigers could be 5-1 by the time they reach the heavy part of their schedule: four of the last five games are against Nebraska, Colorado, Texas A&M, and Kansas State. That stretch will decide if the Tigers go bowling again.

COLORADO

There will be no talk in Boulder this fall of the national championship. A low-key approach is being taken at Colorado after a 5-6 season in which the

Marcus Stiggers, Colorado



ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Michael Bishop	SR	Kansas State
RB	Ricky Williams	SR	Texas
RB	De'Mond Parker	JR	Oklahoma
WR	Donnie Hart	SR	Texas Tech
WR	Marcus Stiggers	JR	Colorado
TE	Derek Lewis	SR	Texas
OL	Josh Heskew	SR	Nebraska
OL	Todd Neimyer	SR	Missouri
OL	Ryan Young	SR	Kansas State
OL	Jay Humphrey	SR	Texas
OL	Shane Cook	JR	Colorado
PK	Martin Gramatica	SR	Kansas State

DEFENSE

DL	Montae Reagor	SR	Texas Tech
DL	Mike Rucker	SR	Nebraska
DL	Kelly Gregg	SR	Oklahoma
DL	Marquis Gibson	SR	Missouri
LB	Dat Nguyen	SR	Texas A&M
LB	Jeff Kelly	SR	Kansas State
LB	Kenyatta Wright	JR	Oklahoma State
DB	Ralph Brown	JR	Nebraska
DB	Lamar Chapman	SR	Kansas State
DB	Rodney Smith	JR	Baylor
DB	Harold Piersey	SR	Missouri
P	Shane Lechler	JR	Texas A&M

Buffs lost five conference games and coach Rick Neuheisel's discipline and coaching abilities were questioned. The Buffs were supposedly soft and too pass-happy to win in a division where Kansas State was now running past CU. So Neuheisel promised a respectable rushing game and a return to big, tough line play.

Junior quarterback Jeremy Weisinger, who showed poise and running ability and threw just one interception in spring

scrimmages, has the edge to replace John Hessler, but he'll be pushed by junior college transfer Mike Moschetti and Adam Bledsoe. The backfield is stocked with senior Marlon Barnes, junior Dwayne Cherrington, and sophomore Damion Barton. They have potential but have yet to make CU a running threat.

Much of the line, led by junior tackle Shane Cook, returns. The Buffs always have a big-time threat at receiver. This year, watch Marcus Stiggers and Darrin Chiaverini. And keep an eye on kick returner Ben Kelly.

The lack of toughness was evident on defense, too, as the Buffs couldn't stop the run. That trend could continue since Neuheisel retained just five starters, including corners Marcus Washington and Damen Wheeler. Look for linebackers Hannibal Navies and Ty Gregorak to step up. Senior Terrell Cade, who moved to linebacker from end, was suspended in the spring but should be available in the fall.

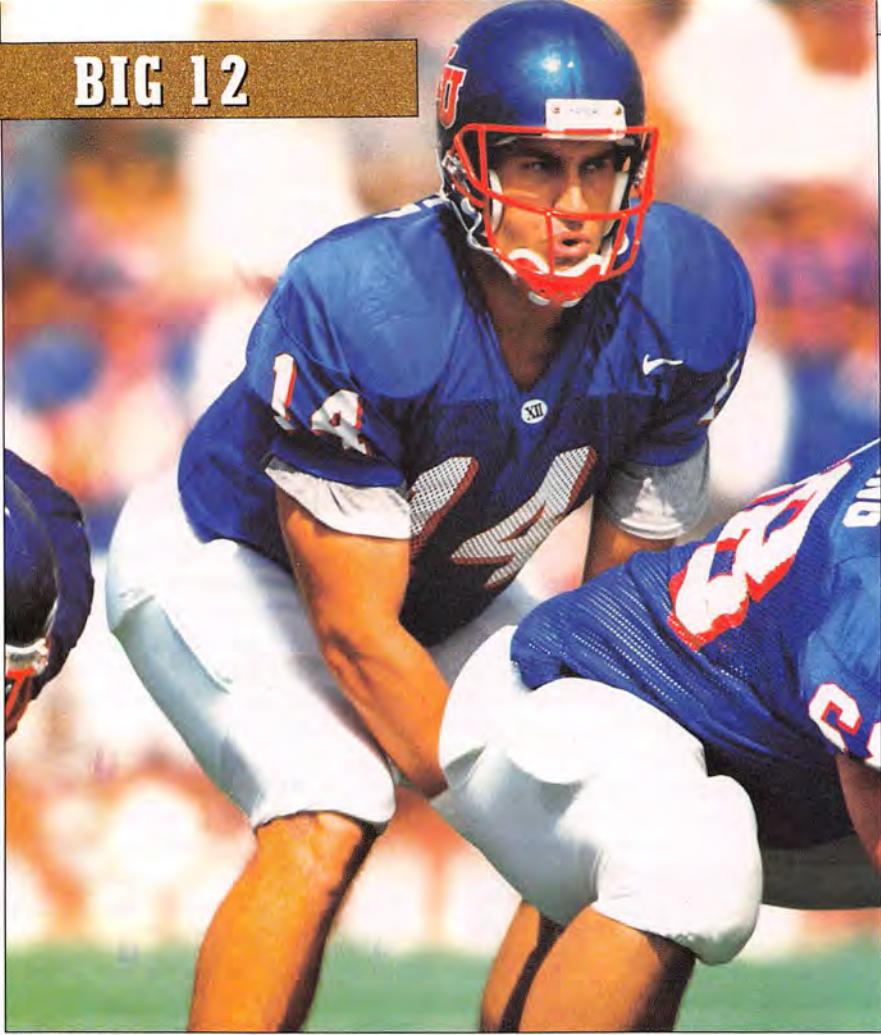
At least the Buffs' schedule won't get in the way. CU has Colorado State, Fresno State, and Utah State before a league rotation that includes Oklahoma, Baylor, and Texas Tech. But Nebraska is no longer CU's big game. The Buffs have to prove they can beat Missouri and K-State.

KANSAS

Since last November, Kansas has worked to complete a \$24 million renovation project of Memorial Stadium by the 1998 season opener. Jayhawks coach Terry Allen's construction project figures to take a little longer.

Allen, who built Northern Iowa into a I-AA power, understands patience. Reality landed hard in Allen's first year at Kansas. After a 3-0 start, the Jayhawks finished 2-6 with victories over Oklahoma and Iowa State. With a schedule this fall that includes games at Missouri,

BIG 12



Zac Wegner, Kansas

Texas A&M, and Nebraska, along with home dates with Colorado, Kansas State, and Oklahoma State, Allen just hopes to add another brick to the wall.

Junior Zac Wegner, who threw for 970 yards and four touchdowns while starting the final six games, is Allen's quarterback. The Hawks lost running back Eric Vann, but junior Mitch Bowles offered hope with a 147-yard, two-touchdown spring game that included a 75-yard touchdown run. Harrison Hill, who missed most of the year with a leg injury he suffered while throwing a block in the second game, leads the receivers. The line is intact. From continuity's sake alone, KU should be better on offense.

Defense is another matter. Only four regulars are back, including senior outside linebacker Patrick Brown and inside linebacker Steve Bratten. Allen has to replace a big-play secondary that lost three starters. The good news: Allen does welcome 15 redshirts, including 14 freshmen and junior defensive tackle Adrian Greene, who will get valuable experience this season. Meanwhile, KU fans can enjoy their new concession stands and rest rooms.

State fans expect significant progress. McCarney knows it. That's why he's locked his players in the weight room and signed 18 junior college players.

The problem is, 16 of the jucos won't arrive until August. The biggest game of the season is the opener (September 5 against Texas Christian at home). The Cyclones also play at state rival Iowa and at home against Ball State before a Big 12 slate that includes games at Texas, Kansas State, and Oklahoma. The swing games are Texas Tech and Kansas at home and OU on the road.

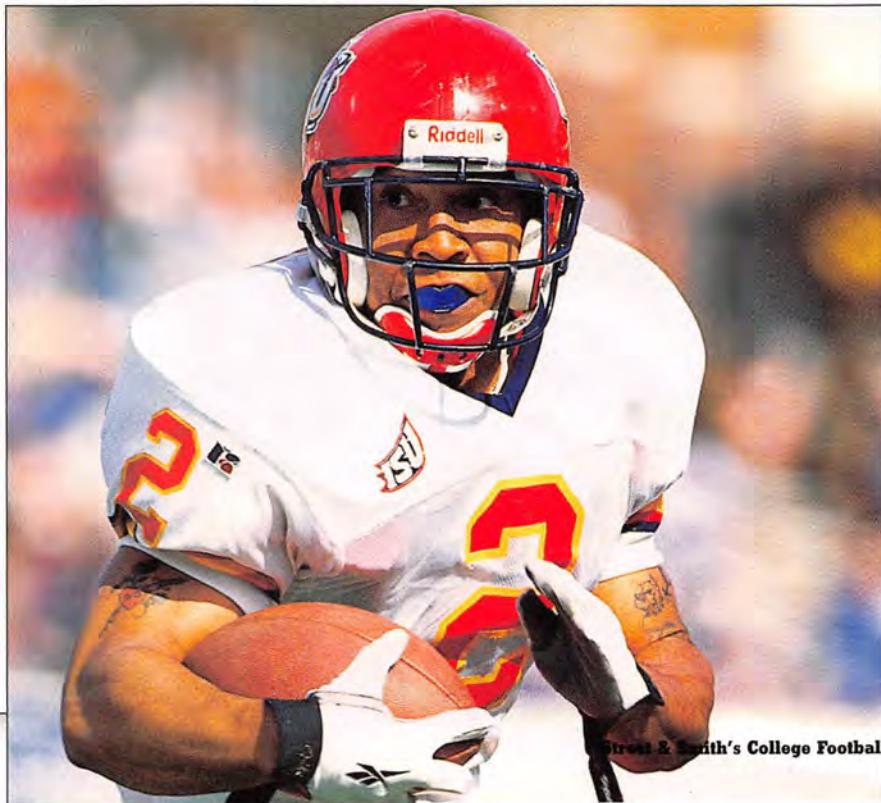
The Cyclones, the league's youngest team a year ago (with 16 freshmen), have a chance because they have a returning nucleus in key positions. Senior quarterback Todd Bandhauer (2,514 yards passing) and junior tailback Darren Davis (1,005 yards rushing) have big-play potential. But only two starters return on the line and the leading returning receiver, Michael Brantley, caught three passes for 21 yards last season.

Fortunately, McCarney thinks this defense will be his best in four seasons. Much of his reasoning is based on a class of bulked-up freshmen and sophomores (12 on the defensive two-deep) and the fact that 12 of the 18 jucos are defenders. McCarney, whose defenses led the Big Ten while he was at Iowa, hopes sophomore end Reggie Hayward and sophomore nose guard Nigel Tharpe can realize their potential and give this evolving group an anchor to keep the ship from going down.

Darren Davis, Iowa State

IOWA STATE

This is a big year for coach Dan McCarney. The former Iowa player and aide has had four recruiting classes in Ames. He has had beautiful new facilities built. Now, after three seasons (3-8, 2-9, 1-10 respectively), Iowa

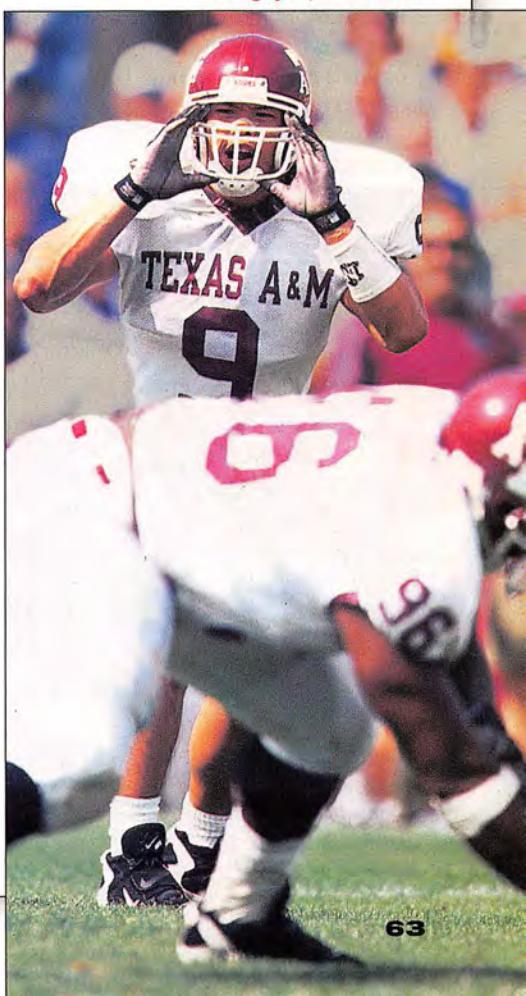


TEXAS A&M

The schedule begins with Florida State in the Kickoff Classic and includes defending national champion Nebraska and five other teams that finished with winning records. Texas A&M is armed with a dangerous group of skill-position players, linebackers, and defensive backs. If coach R.C. Slocum can reload his interior lines, the Aggies could survive the schedule.

The offense has a pair of 300-pound anchors at guard in senior Cameron Spikes and junior Semisi Heimuli, a bullish drive blocker who has started the last 25 games. Hopes are high for junior tackle Andy Vincent, senior tackle Rex Tucker, and redshirt freshman center Seth McKinney. If the line can jell, the offense could be awesome. Eight starters return, including senior quarterback Brandon Stewart and running backs Dante Hall, Sirr Parker, and D'Andre Hardeman, who combined for nearly 2,300 yards last fall. Hall, an all-purpose return threat, averages 124.4 yards per game. Wide receiver Aaron Oliver suffered an ACL injury in the spring and is doubtful for the beginning of the season. Regardless, the Aggies should be able to match their 375 yards per game. All-Big 12 punter

Dat Nguyen, Texas A&M



SOUTH DIVISION

TEXAS

Last year's 4-7 debacle is history now at Texas. The Longhorns have a new attitude. They have new head coach Mack Brown, who left North Carolina to rebuild the Longhorn image and self-esteem. They are inviting ex-players and coaches back to be part of the program.

The Horns also return 17 starters, the most important of whom by far is senior tailback Ricky Williams. When Williams decided against an early entrance into the NFL, it automatically transformed Texas into a better team and maybe even a Big 12 contender. After leading the nation in rushing (172.1 yards per game) and scoring (13.8 points per game), Williams will be high on the 1998 Heisman and 1999 NFL draft lists.

The rest of the offense is familiar but uncertain. There is experience in the line with three third-year starters in tackles Octavious Bishop and Jay Humphrey and guard Ben Adams. There are capable tar-

gets in senior tight end Derek Lewis and sophomore wideout Kwame Cavil and senior Wane McGarity, who missed most of last year with an injury. But can senior Richard Walton replace play-making quarterback James Brown? Walton has completed 84 of 153 passes, but he'll do fine just handing off to Williams.

The Texas defense, which ranked 85th nationally and 10th in the Big 12, will have a completely new look. Nine starters are back, but the Horns could field an entirely new lineup (save for end Aaron Humphrey). Brown has brought in coordinator Carl Reese to install an attacking 4-3 defense. Most of the concerns start up front, with shoring up a run defense that allowed 241.5 yards per game and finding a pass-rushing end. The defense had just 15 sacks last season.

Texas has the talent. Longhorn fans hope the combination of Brown's system and Williams's senior year will reinstate the team at the top.

Aaron Humphrey, Texas

BIG 12

Shane Lechler is back for his junior year. Texas A&M is the sixth-winningest program in the 1990s, and much of it has to do with defense. The "Wrecking Crew" lost three linemen, but Aggie insiders think highly of this line, especially if sophomores Rocky Bernard, Ron Edwards, and Ronald Flemons develop as expected. There is a strong maroon wall behind them. A&M's linebackers start with Butkus Award candidate Dat Nguyen, a small (6-1, 213) package who explodes into running backs. Nguyen, who has led A&M in tackles the last three seasons, is flanked by sophomores Cornelius Anthony and Roylin Bradley and senior Warrick Holdman. The secondary returns four starters, led by junior corner Sedrick Curry.

OKLAHOMA STATE

The Cowboys were the surprise team of the Big 12, going 8-4 and winding up in the Alamo Bowl. That was nothing like the surprise OSU fans got this past spring, when it was announced that coach Bob Simmons had had a kidney transplant, donated by his wife, Linda.

Simmons is fine. The Cowboys should be O.K. as well, though nobody will be surprised. But that's fine, too, since OSU has 16 starters returning and a schedule of Tulsa, Mississippi State, and Southwestern Louisiana that should allow them to get off to another quick start.

DéMond Parker, Oklahoma



Kenyatta Wright, Oklahoma State

OKLAHOMA

Start with quarterback Tony Lindsay, the league's freshman of the year. He wowed opponents each week with his poise and late-game heroics. There is a pack of quarterbacks behind him pushing hard, including sophomore Chris Chaloupka and incoming *Parade* All-America Matt Holliday from Stillwater.

Lindsay's weapons are everywhere. OSU returns its top five rushers, led by sophomore Jamaal Fobbs (846 yards) and junior Nathan Simmons (711), and five of its top six receivers, including Willie Grissom and Sean Love. The Pokes return three starting linemen in tackle David Camacho, center Jeremy Offutt, and guard Adam Davis. The only hole to fill is a big one: All-America tight end Alonso Mayes. Junior Garrett Steggs filled in when Mayes was injured the final four games of 1997.

The Pokes return eight defensive regulars, including a linebacking corps that could be among the best in the league. It is led by juniors Kenyatta Wright and Raymond Cato. Simmons also must rebuild his secondary, which lost a pair of all-Big 12 corners in R.W. McQuarters and Kevin Williams.

OSU's young guns keep reloading, and they could mount a challenge to Texas and Texas A&M in the division.

Is that Thomas Lott or Jamelle Holieway back at Oklahoma? No, it's Brandon Daniels. Yes, the Sooners are running the option full-time once more. And optimism, strangely enough for a program that has lost 20 of its last 29 games, is abundant again in Norman.

Coach John Blake hopes the new option will jump-start this dormant power and perhaps save his job. The early returns are positive. Daniels, a former Oklahoma high school player of the year from Ada, was moved to quarterback after struggling at receiver and defensive back. He opened eyes all spring, rushing 31 times for 497 yards in four scrimmages. The coaches feel the junior is a natural at the option.

Daniels and the option may transform senior tailback DéMond Parker into a national name. Parker, who has rushed for 2,327 yards in two seasons on mediocre teams, has explosive talents. How much success the Sooners' option has will depend on the quick maturity of its line, which starts five sophomores.

The Sooners also have to stop somebody on defense, which ranked eighth in the league. Blake is shaking that side up, too, with a switch to the 46 defense and the hiring of Rex Ryan as coordinator. Ryan is the son of former NFL defensive

wizard Buddy Ryan (who developed the 46 in Chicago) and the brother of Rob Ryan, the defensive coordinator at Oklahoma State, which successfully switched to the 46 last fall. Rex spent much of the spring moving players around. But he has a base to work with in senior tackle Kelly Gregg, a second-team all-Big 12 pick, and an experienced secondary, led by free safety Terry White.

TEXAS TECH

The Zebbie Lethridge era is over. For the first time in four years, the Red Raiders will have a new quarterback, junior Rob Peters, who played mop-up in 11 games last season. Linemen Chris Whitney, Jay Pugh, and Jayson Hansen, who started a combined 61 games the last three seasons, are also gone. Oh, yes, and the Red Raiders are on self-imposed probation from postseason play. Is there hope in Lubbock?

Yes. It comes in the form of Ricky Williams—the other Ricky Williams—and Donnie Hart. Williams, a 5-7, 182-pound I-back, replaced Byron Hanspard a year ago with an eye-opening 894 yards, breaking Hanspard's freshman school record. He even outrushed Texas's Ricky Williams (131-80) in their head-to-head meeting. Hart should give Peters a comfortable target if he can get back to his all-Big 12 form after missing several games with a hamstring injury. Sophomore fullback Jonathan Hawkins and sophomore tackle Jonathan Gray provide further hope for the future.

Coach Spike Dykes's "swarm" defense surrendered a league-low 121 points vs. Big 12 foes and was responsible for the Raiders leading the nation in turnover margin (+52) in the last five years. The unit returns five starters, including senior All-America candidate Montae Reagor (10.5 sacks) at end. Reagor will have opponents running to the other side, where junior Taurus Rucker will be waiting. The Red Raiders hope junior weak-side linebacker Kevin McCullar is ready to move into the league's upper echelon.

The Red Raiders are young. If they mature this year, look for them to ruin somebody's postseason plans, since they can't go bowing themselves.

BAYLOR

After a 2-9 record in his first year, Baylor coach Dave Roberts is looking for something positive to happen. He didn't exactly get it this spring,



Darrell Bush, Baylor

when Roberts indefinitely suspended four players, including tailbacks Dexter Ford and Elijah Burkins and fullback Robert Jackson.

What Roberts needs is for a quarterback, preferably redshirt sophomore Odell James, to step up. James, one of

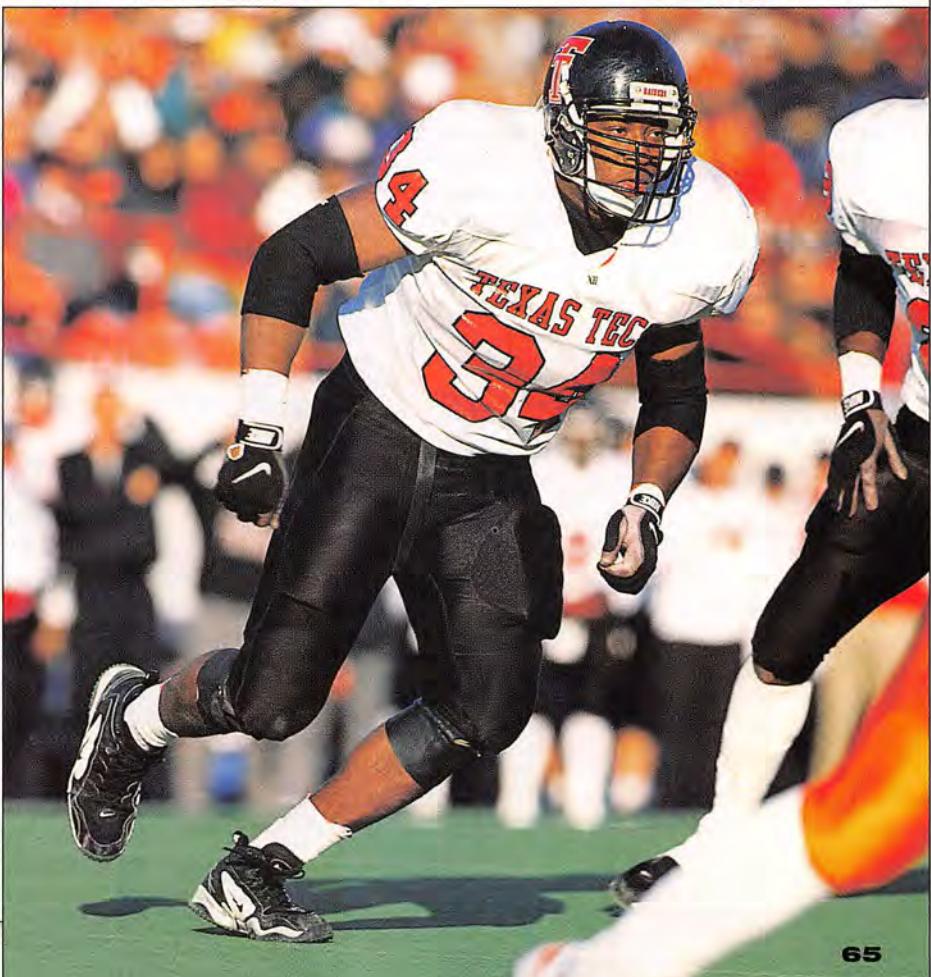
three candidates to replace Jeff Watson, won the starting job in the spring. A highly touted big-play option quarterback in high school, James may have to rely more on the passing game early on.

Not only are the Bears replacing running back Jerod Douglas, one of their all-time greats, but they had expected Ford, Burkins, and Jackson to play significant roles. If they do not return, the running game will be on the shoulders of sophomore Darrell Bush, who ran for a freshman school record 693 yards. Senior wideout Derrius Thompson led the Bears with 32 catches for 420 yards.

Roberts will look for reinforcements and position changes to shore up his offensive line and defense. Competing for jobs in spring drills were offensive linemen Mike Love and Scott Childress and linebacker Andre Taylor. Former linebacker Don Arroyo is the starting tight end. Junior safety Rodney Smith and sophomore linebacker Kris Micheaux head a defense that will be under the gun again this season.

The Bears' nonconference schedule includes Oregon State, North Carolina State, and Notre Dame along with North Division games against Colorado and Kansas State. ■

Montae Reagor, Texas Tech



BIG WEST

Look for Nevada and Utah State at the top of the Big West once more.

BY DWIGHT CHAPIN

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

The pattern in the '90s has become familiar: It's either Nevada or Utah State at the top of the Big West. The Wolf Pack has tied for or won seven conference championships in this decade, with the Aggies (who have tied for or won three titles in the last five years) as their most persistent challenger.

This season doesn't figure to be any different. In 1997 it came down to the last day of the schedule, at Nevada's Mackay Stadium, when Utah State came up with a 38-19 victory that gave the Aggies a conference co-championship and sent them to a bowl game. But Nevada coach Jeff Tisdel seemed equally concerned about his team's last-minute non-league losses to Oregon and Wyoming. "Our first and foremost goal every year is to win the conference and get to a bowl game," he said. "But we need to clear the next hurdle—not only playing and competing with the name teams on our schedule, but getting over the hump and beating some of them."

Regardless of whether they do, the Wolf Pack figures to contest Utah State for another Big West championship, with Boise State, which has yet another new head coach, Dirk Koetter, as the dark horse in the conference race.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:
Geoff Noisy,
WR, Nevada

DEFENSE:
Scott Blank,
DE, North Texas

NEWCOMER:
Zeb Cornist,
DT, North Texas

GAME TO WATCH

Utah at Utah State,
September 5

Nevada at UNLV,
October 3

Boise State at Nevada,
October 31

Nevada at Utah State,
November 7

NEVADA

The Wolf Pack will get a chance this season to prove if it's the system that makes the quarterback or the quarterback that makes the system. Gone from the nation's most prolific passing offense (370.2 yards a game) is two-time Big West offensive player of the year John Dutton, and there's no proven

Reggie Mitchell, Nevada



quarterback to replace him. Coach Jeff Tisdel will look at JC transfer Erik Stidham, redshirt Chris Olsen, and a trio of freshmen to try to find the right fit and improve on a 5-6 record (only the school's second sub-.500 season in 22 years) that included a 4-1 conference mark and league co-championship.

The offense, which produced 479.3 yards per game in 1997, will focus early on junior running back Chris Lemon (1,055 yards) and a talented receiving corps headed by wideouts Geoff Noisy (league-high 86 receptions for 1,184 yards) and Trevor Insley (59-1,151) and all-conference tight end Darin Higgins. The line will have to be almost completely rebuilt, with Ryan Scuffy, who is moving from guard to center, and Cameron Norcross the only tested players.

The defense lost DeShone Myles at linebacker and James Cannida up front but has two senior all-league picks in the secondary in cornerback Don Morgan and free safety Reggie Mitchell.

UTAH STATE

Long-time Weber State coach Dave Arslanian takes over a team that was

6-6 overall (4-1 in conference) and advanced to the Humanitarian Bowl. His defense, which led the conference, should be very good again. Big West defensive player of the year Ben Crosland and John Latu are gone from the line, but seven starters are back: linemen Caleb Smith and Lindsay Hassell, linebacker Tony D'Amato (team-high 124 tackles), cornerbacks Bashir Livingston and Donald Dicko, and safeties Johndale Carty, an all-league pick, and Vashon Garmon. Returning, too, are punter Jerry Arguello (44.8) and place-kicker Brad Bohn.

The Aggies lost a lot from an offense that ranked ninth in the nation in total offense, including quarterback Matt Sauk (5,385 yards passing in two seasons), receivers Nakia Jenkins and Steve Smith, and linemen Mauricio Jourdan, Mark Rommel, and Brandon Dyson. Four regulars return: all-Big West running back Demario Brown (121 yards per game), guards Mike Lindsay and Ken Watts, and receiver Ricky Brumfield. Sophomore Brian Benza and transfer Riley Jensen will vie at quarterback, with London McBride likely to start opposite Brumfield and Waqa Damuni at tight end.

BOISE STATE

The Broncos will be working under their third coaching staff in as many years, this one headed by ex-Oregon offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Dirk Koetter. He replaces Houston Nutt, who left for Arkansas after one season and a 4-7 record (3-2 in conference play). Koetter recognizes the lack of continuity and the strain on the players, but hopes to make the best of the situation.

He's lucky to have back a pair of returning part-time starters at quarterback in Bart Hendricks and Nate Sparks, top rusher Gavin Reed, and leading receiver Rodney Smith (64 catches for 917 yards). Rejoining them are receiver Tony Mamaril, tight end



Jermaine Belin, Boise State

Jim Brekke, and the entire offensive line: tackle Jermaine Belin (all-Big West), Ryan Groneman, Joey Horvat, Jeremy Mankins, and Keith Dilworth. The kicking game should be good, with veterans Jeff Davis (38.7 yards per punt) and Todd Belcastro (a league-high 15 field goals).

Defensively, Koetter has plenty of experience, too, with Jon Rydman, Bobby Setzer, and Farja Greathouse in the line, Bryan Johnson (team-high 85 tackles) and Tyer Dayton at linebacker, and Dempsey Dees, Kevin Chiles, Ross Farris, and the multitalented Davis in the secondary.

IDAHO

Coming off a 5-6 season (2-3 and tied for fourth in the Big West), coach Chris Tormey thinks he has talent at every position, but it's very young talent. Only a handful of seniors may start. The best of them is running back Joel Thomas, who is in an unprecedented sixth season as a Vandal after losing two years to injuries. He was all-Big West after rushing for 1,148 yards in '96. The other key veterans are all on defense: end James Durrough, linebacker Ryan Skinner, and safeties Bryson Gardner and Kevin Hill.

Quarterback Brian Brennan (2,708 yards passing) will be tough to replace. Ed Dean, transfer Greg Robertson, and redshirt John Welsh all will get looks. There's just one proven receiver, Ryan Prestimono (38 catches), and not a lot of experience in the line.

On defense, Tim Wilson and Arnold Gunn are gone, but Skinner (team-high 132 tackles), Matt Jasik, and Chris

safety Phillip Littlejohn. Brothers Corry and Fred Pertile are promising linebackers. Transfer Zeb Cornist will aid the line.

NEW MEXICO STATE

If the Aggies are to improve on a 2-9 season that included five losses without a victory in the Big West, they will have to do something about a defense that allowed 465 yards and 36 points a game, ranking near the bottom among 112 Division I-A teams in four categories.

Second-year coach Tony Samuel retains three regulars in Mantel Thomas, Jascon Willis, and Jeffrey Thompson in the secondary, along with most of his linebacking corps, led by leading tackler Waylon Waters and Jobe Lewis. Michael A. Cunningham had 105 tackles last fall in junior college. A lot will depend on how much help tackle Tim Engelhardt will get from several new linemen.

Much of the offensive load will be carried by I-back Denvis Manns (1,017 yards), who is bidding to join Tony Dorsett and Amos Lawrence as the only Division I-A runners ever to top 1,000 yards in four straight seasons. The line is thin and receiver Duane Gregory is gone, but several speedy transfers should aid returning quarterback Ty Houghtaling. Other key players are fullback Mike D. Cunningham, tight end Dustin Guinn, and place-kicker/punter Nick Cecava. ■

NORTH TEXAS

The Mean Green knocked off Texas Tech and Big West co-champion Utah State in 1997, but things dropped off sharply from there, as they finished 4-7 overall (2-3 and tied for fourth in the league). Former SMU, UTEP, and Memphis offensive coordinator Darrell Dickey will try to give the team a boost as its new head coach. He has eight starters back on what should be a much-improved offense. The nonconference schedule (Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Arizona State, Texas A&M), however, is brutal.

Sophomore quarterback LaDarrin McLane will be directing a new I-formation that will feature runners Ja'Quay Wilburn (594 yards) and Hut Allred and senior receivers Jay Young (36 catches for 552 yards), Brian Waters, and Broderick McGrew. First-team all-Big West Phillip Armour will anchor a solid offensive line.

The kicking game features All-America punter John Baker (47.2) and all-conference place-kicker Garrett Courtney. Top tacklers Ron Boston and Benny Cherry have departed, but six defensive starters return, headed by all-Big West end Scott Blank (13 sacks, 11 tackles for loss) and

Broderick McGrew, North Texas



CONFERENCE USA

Southern Miss and Tulane go head-to-head for the league title.

BY RANDY MELL

SUN-SENTINEL OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Southern Mississippi has quickly become Conference USA's powerhouse. The Golden Eagles move into the league's third year looking to claim a third straight conference crown. They are also looking to move up in the national rankings after finishing 19th in both polls a year ago.

The conference's 1997 accomplishments include laying claim to the only undefeated bowl record. Southern Miss whipped Pittsburgh in the Liberty Bowl and Cincinnati defeated Utah State in the Humanitarian Bowl. C-USA finished the season ranked seventh among conferences in the Sagarin computer ratings, which put it ahead of, among others, the Big East. The conference grows by one this fall with Army joining the fold.

The Golden Eagles look like the team to beat again, but there's a resurgence taking place at Tulane, where coach Tommy Bowden electrified New Orleans with a high-powered offense that set 26 school records. The Green Wave host Southern Miss in an early-season league showdown on October 3. Cincinnati is aiming to have a say in the C-USA race with free safety and punt-returner extraordinaire Tinker Keck.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Shaun King,
QB, Tulane

DEFENSE:

Marquis Bowling,
DT, Memphis

NEWCOMER:

Deontay Kenner,
QB, Cincinnati

GAMES TO WATCH

Southern Mississippi
at Penn State,
September 5

Kentucky at Louisville,
September 5

Southern Mississippi
at Tulane, October 3

Army vs. Navy,
December 5

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Coach Jeff Bower will find out immediately if his team is to challenge the game's elite. The Golden Eagles play at Penn State on September 5. They will get two more chances to make their mark nationally in high-profile nonconference games with a home date vs. Texas A&M (September 19) and a road game against Alabama (October 31).

Conference USA player of the year and defensive back Patrick Surtain is among six defensive starters gone. The good news is that all-league junior end Adalius Thomas (9 sacks) is back after winning Liberty Bowl defensive MVP honors.

The offense is in good hands with senior Lee Roberts, who became only the second quarterback in school history to throw for more than 2,000 yards in a season. He needs 15 TD passes to break Brett Favre's school career record. Junior Sherrod Gideon set one school mark with 54 receptions and tied another with nine TD catches. He needs seven catches to become the school's all-time leader. Sophomore Kelby Nance will try to replace 1,000-yard rusher Harold Shaw. Tim Hardaway hit 13 of 16 field goals.

TULANE

Tommy Bowden, son of Florida State coach Bobby Bowden and brother of Auburn coach Terry Bowden, energized Tulane in his first season as head coach. The Green Wave enjoyed its first

winning mark (7-4) since 1981, and it went 5-1 in the conference. The seven victories were the most since 1980. The Green Wave did it in high-flying fashion, breaking 26 school records, including those for points and total offense.

Fans are dreaming of a bowl bid for the first time in years. The Green Wave has an explosive offense that retains all but one starter. Senior Shaun King, the conference player of the year, threw for 2,567 yards and a school-record 24 TDs and ran for 511 yards. Sophomore tailback Toney Converse (777 yards) and senior Jamaican Dartez (506 yards in six games) ignite the running game. Senior P.J. Franklin (8 TDs) and junior JaJuan Dawson (10 TDs) are the first duo in school history to each have 50 or more catches in a season. Senior Mike Gumiela is among four returnees up front.

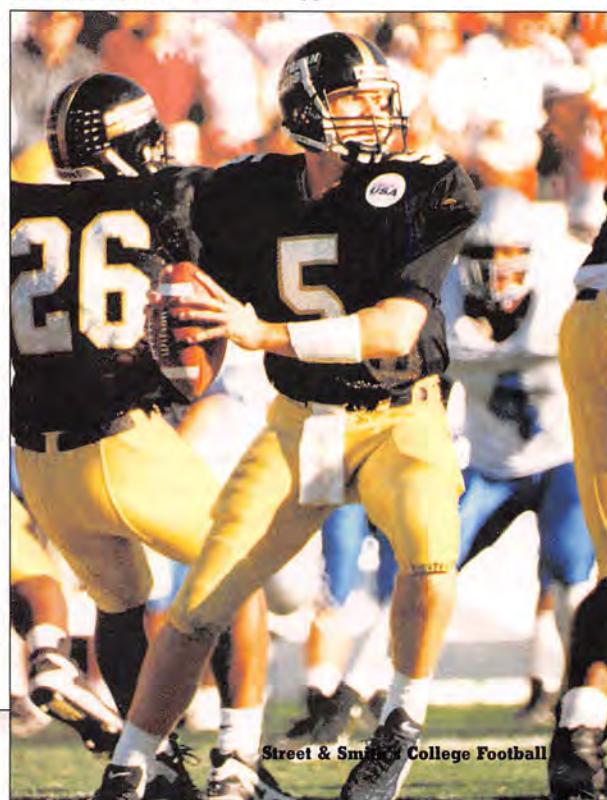
While everybody was talking offense, the defense had a national-high 26 interceptions and a pair of shutouts. Six regulars are back. Senior cornerback Michael Jordan had five interceptions. Brad Palazzo led the nation in field goals (23) and senior classmate Brad Hill was fourth nationally in punting (46.2-yard average).

CINCINNATI

Despite a disappointing showing in the conference (2-4), the Bearcats were able to call 1997 a success. At 8-4, they went undefeated outside the conference and to their first bowl in 47 years. They made the game something to remember by rocking Utah State 35-19 in the Humanitarian Bowl. There is depth with 31 of the top 44 players returning, including 12 starters.

Senior Chad Plummer, who started every game in an option-oriented offense the last two years, will

Lee Roberts, Southern Mississippi





Tinker Keck, Cincinnati

share QB duties with sophomore Deontey Kenner, the better passer of the two. Look for Plummer to slide over as a receiver or drop off in the backfield as a runner when Kenner enters the game. Junior tailback Robert Cooper (611 yards), senior receiver Cornelius Bonner (27 catches), and senior Brian Uhl, moving from center to tackle, are standouts.

The most exciting player is Tinker Keck, a senior free safety who tied the NCAA record with four punt returns for TDs last fall. He also led the team with four interceptions. Senior outside linebacker Hassan Champion and sophomore outside linebacker DeJuan Gossett lead coach Rick Minter's attack-style scheme. The unit was fifth in the nation in rushing defense (84.5 yards per game).

MEMPHIS

Coach Rip Scherer is looking for his first winning season since taking over in 1995. If he can get his Tigers to play on the road the way they play in their Liberty Bowl home, this might be a breakthrough season. The Tigers were 4-2 at home, where they allowed just 14 total points in the fourth quarter of games.

With 16 starters back, there's a solid nucleus to build around. With the departure of Bernard Oden, who accounted for 20 of the team's 27 TDs last fall, heralded prep quarterback Kenton Evans will have to mature quickly in his sophomore season. Junior flanker Damien Dodson and senior receiver Richie Floyd combined for 83 catches and 1,226 yards. The

Tigers need to improve their running game. They have just two 100-yard rushers in their last 35 games. Junior tailback Gerard Arnold hopes to be the catalyst. Senior tackle Ron Sells anchors the line.

Senior defensive tackle Marquis Bowling tied a Memphis record with 11 sacks. He needs six to break the school's career mark. Junior cornerback Mike McKenzie and sophomore linebacker Kamal Shakir rejoin him on the unit.

LOUISVILLE

Change is the theme at Louisville this year: a new coach, a new stadium, a new attitude. The Cardinals hope it all adds up to a new direction. Ron Cooper was ousted as coach after a fall to 1-10 a year ago, and John L. Smith was hired from Utah State.

Smith brings a wide-open offense to build around junior Chris Redman, who is well on his way to breaking all the school's passing marks. He threw for 3,079 yards and 18 touchdowns in '97. Smith's challenge will be to rejuvenate a running game that averaged a paltry 76.8 yards. Junior Frank Moreau will compete with JC transfer Leroy Collins at tailback. No I-A tight end caught more passes last year than junior Ibn Green (55). Junior Arnold Jackson added 46 catches and seven TDs. The line returns three starters, including senior guard Rick Nord.

The defense, which retained five regulars, will undergo change with a new blitzing scheme. Free safety Courtney Dinkins is an all-star candidate. The line should be better with junior tackle Mike Gantous and senior end James Dennis. Sophomore linebackers Rashad Harris and Bud Herring are key players.

EAST CAROLINA

The Pirates slumped to 5-6, their first losing season since 1993. It was this simple: They couldn't run the football and they couldn't stop the run.

Coach Steve Logan will be looking to rebuild a running attack that ranked 111th among 112 teams. Sophomore Jamie Wilson, who split time with the departed Scott Harley, will get the chance to carry the ball behind what should be an improved line led by senior center Danny Moore. Senior Troy Smith is back after setting a school record with 52 catches for 795 yards. Senior tight end Buck Collins is another sure-handed target. The big question is at quarterback, where senior Ernest Tinnin, sophomore Bobby

Weaver, and redshirt freshman David Garrard will compete for the starting job.

The defense will have to cut down on the 178 rushing yards per game it allowed. Senior outside linebacker Roderrick Coleman (15 sacks) and junior inside linebacker Jeff Kerr lead the unit. Kerr led the team in tackles. Senior nose guard Travis Darden and senior free safety Kelvin Suggs also return.

HOUSTON

The Cougars struggled to 3-8 a year ago, and they will have their work cut out this year in trying to improve against a tough nonconference schedule. Houston opens at California, hosts Minnesota and UCLA, then travels to Tennessee in a difficult four-week stretch. The schedule gets tough late, too, with just one home game in the final five.

Sixth-year coach Kim Helton could endure a headache the entire month of September if an inexperienced defense doesn't develop quickly. Only three starters return. Junior outside linebacker Micah Malone, the top returning tackler, will be playing behind three new starters on the line. He joins senior safety Stedmon Forman and junior cornerback William Fields as the veterans in the unit.

The offense will be in the hands of Conference USA freshman of the year Jason McKinley, who will be looking to increase his touchdown passes (9) and cut down on his interceptions (11). Junior Ketric Sanford and senior Vaughn Inniss combined for more than 1,200 rushing yards. Junior tight end Scott Regimbald is a standout and sophomore receiver Orlando Iglesias has big-play potential.

ARMY

Under eighth-year coach Bob Sutton, Army will try to rebound from a 4-7 record with just 10 returning starters, six on offense and four on defense. The Cadets' sampling of the conference wasn't particularly promising a year ago. Tulane whipped the Cadets 41-0 in Army's only meeting with a Conference USA foe. Junior quarterback Johnny Goff is back after running for a team-leading 698 yards. Senior half-back Bobby Williams and senior tackle Neil Ravitz are key players. Seniors Kenny Dale Rowland and Tim Gatlin return in the secondary after an injury-plagued '97 season. Senior defensive tackle Joe Stanyer and junior nose guard Scott Kozak anchor the front.

MID-AMERICAN

Even the loss of Randy Moss should not slow Marshall.

BY STAN SUTTON

LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

Scoring should be the name of the game in the MAC, where several teams boast industrial-strength offenses. One of the best belongs to defending champion Marshall, for whom Chad Pennington threw 42 touchdown passes last season. Even the loss of All-America receiver Randy Moss should not slow the Thundering Herd too much.

Miami has Travis Prentice, who ran for 1,549 yards and 25 scores, and Kent has Eugene Baker, who will exceed 3,000 career yards in receptions early in the season. Toledo has a multifaceted offense led by Chris Wallace, who threw for 27 touchdowns and owns 10 school records, and tailback Dwayne Harris. Still around, if health permits, is tailback Wasean Tait, the scourge of the Mid-American before he suffered a serious knee injury in the 1996 opening game.

Defending division champions Marshall and Toledo again should be the teams to beat, although several clubs have improved. Gary Darnell is in his second season at Western Michigan, which won its last six and finished only one game behind Toledo. The Broncos also have a big offensive weapon in Tim Lester, who completed 58 percent of his passes and blends with 1,000-yard rusher Robert Sanford. Ohio scored at least 31 points in five games and got more than 800 rushing yards from Steve Hookfin and Kareem Wilson.

The top of the league appears strong, and several teams at the bottom rung hope to close the gap. Northern Illinois was winless and Akron and Central Michigan each won only twice.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Chad Pennington,
QB, Marshall

DEFENSE:

JoJuan Armour,
LB, Miami

NEWCOMER:

Lamain Rucker,
DT, Northern Illinois

GAMES TO WATCH

Western Michigan at
Toledo, September 19

Marshall at South
Carolina, October 3

Miami at Marshall,
October 3

EAST DIVISION

MARSHALL

Randy Moss is gone, taking with him 96 receptions and 26 touchdowns, but the Thundering Herd is not void of talent. There may be a glitch or two to overcome if Bob Pruett's team is to repeat as Mid-American champions, such as replacing 10 starters, but Marshall is still the class of the league.

The big reason is junior Chad Pennington, who threw 39 touchdown passes last season and three more in a bowl game. He completed 58 percent of his passes for 3,817 yards. He has thrown for 6,262 yards in two seasons, having been redshirted in 1996. With Moss gone, his favorite target will be LaVorn Colclough, who had a 92-yard touchdown among his 74 receptions. Nate Poole, who is also a basketball player at Marshall, had 26 catches.

Doug Chapman, a 1,000-yard rusher, returns at tailback and Llow Turner ran for 707 yards. The line lost stellar center John Wade but retained tackles Mike Guilliams and Jamie Rodgers and guard Bert Scarbrough. Jason Starkey is the likely center.

The departure of defensive end B.J. Cohen, who had a school-record 51 career sacks, will be felt, but 6-7 Paul Toviessi will pick up much of the slack. Another big loss was linebacker Larry McCloud, who had 152 tackles despite missing three games. Rogers Beckett is the only returning defensive back.

MIAMI

Running back Travis Prentice, who averaged 141 yards a game and tied for the NCAA lead with 25 rushing touchdowns, is among 11 returning regulars from an 8-3 team that tied Ohio for second in the East Division.

"Travis is the real deal. He's definitely as good a back as there is in college football," coach Randy Walker said of his junior, who had eight games over 100 yards and three over 200.

The RedHawks also keep all-conference receiver Jay Hall (54 catches), but must replace three-year quarterback Sam Rickerts. The spot will be filled from among sophomores John Schacke and Mike Bath and redshirt freshmen Bobby Pesavento and Matt Gonzo. The line was depleted; sophomore center Chris Kalafatis is the only returning starter. Guard Mike Bird, a three-time all-MAC pick, and tight end Damian Vaughn were among the losses.

Miami's defense has six starters back, including the top four tacklers from the squad that has led the conference in total defense the past three seasons. They include linebackers JoJuan Armour, the MAC's defensive player of the year, plus Dustin Cohen and Drew Purcell. The secondary retains safeties Paris Johnson and Jay Baker, but the only returnee on the

Chad Pennington, Marshall





JoJuan Armour, Miami

line is end Jason Simmons.

Place-kicker John Scott and punter Kent McCullough were all-conference.

OHIO

Third-year coach Jim Grobe led Ohio to its first winning season in 15 years as the Bobcats led the MAC in rushing with a school-record 3,321 yards. Against Akron the Bobcats became the first NCAA school since 1993 not to attempt a pass in a game. Quarterback Kareem Wilson is a three-year starter who completed only 14 of 54 passes but ran for 834 yards on 180 attempts. The No. 2 rusher in school history, Wilson had a 61-yard touchdown run and a 68-yard TD pass. Fullback Steve Hookfin ran for 864 yards as Ohio posted an 8-3 record. Ohio keeps eight starters on offense, including guard Mike Solominsky and center Mike Varone.

The defense includes four defensive backs who scored touchdowns among eight returning starters. Linebacker Tom Carder had seven tackles for loss among his 82 stops. End John Kraus had eight tackles for loss and also caused three fumbles and recovered two. Free safety Dennis Fitzgerald had 105 tackles, three interceptions, and three recovered fumbles. Cornerback Mark Stubbs had two interceptions and outside linebacker Rahim Slaise made a team-high nine tackles for loss.

BOWLING GREEN

A running game that averaged only 2.3 yards a carry contributed to the Falcons' 3-8 record. That was complicated by injuries that have cost quarterback Bob Niemet one-third of his playing time over the past two seasons, leaving his health a key to any improvement. Leon Weathersby and Robbie Hollis will compete for the tailback job.

Bowling Green has also been hurt by a pass defense that ranked 109th nationally, claiming only three interceptions last year and yielding 45 passing touchdowns over the past two seasons. The totals were padded by nonconference opponents Ohio State, Kansas State, and Louisiana Tech, which combined for a 30-6 record. This year the Falcons open at Missouri and Penn State.

"No matter how much we have improved, we need to have some kind of early success to reinforce our confidence," said coach Gary Blackney.

The defense will switch from a 3-4 scheme to a 4-3, leaving middle linebacker to Joe O'Neill. He replaces his brother, Kevin, the school's No. 2 career tackler. The Falcons need to establish better cornerback play, and to that end Junior Williams's switch from safety may help. Junior college transfer Chauncey Turner will add competition. The line features

seniors Willie Watson, Dan King, Letoskey Carey, and Dana Johnson.

AKRON

Coach Lee Owens insists the Zips are closer to being a MAC contender than many believe, despite a 2-9 campaign in which seven road games included Nebraska and LSU. "We played enthusiastically and competitively at home, but were unpredictable and uncertain on the road," he said.

There were positives for Akron, which ranked No. 11 in the nation in rushing with 221 yards a game and lowered its turnovers from 31 in 1996 to 20 last fall. Akron ran up 573 yards in beating Central Michigan 53-14 and 554 in a 45-35 victory over Kent.

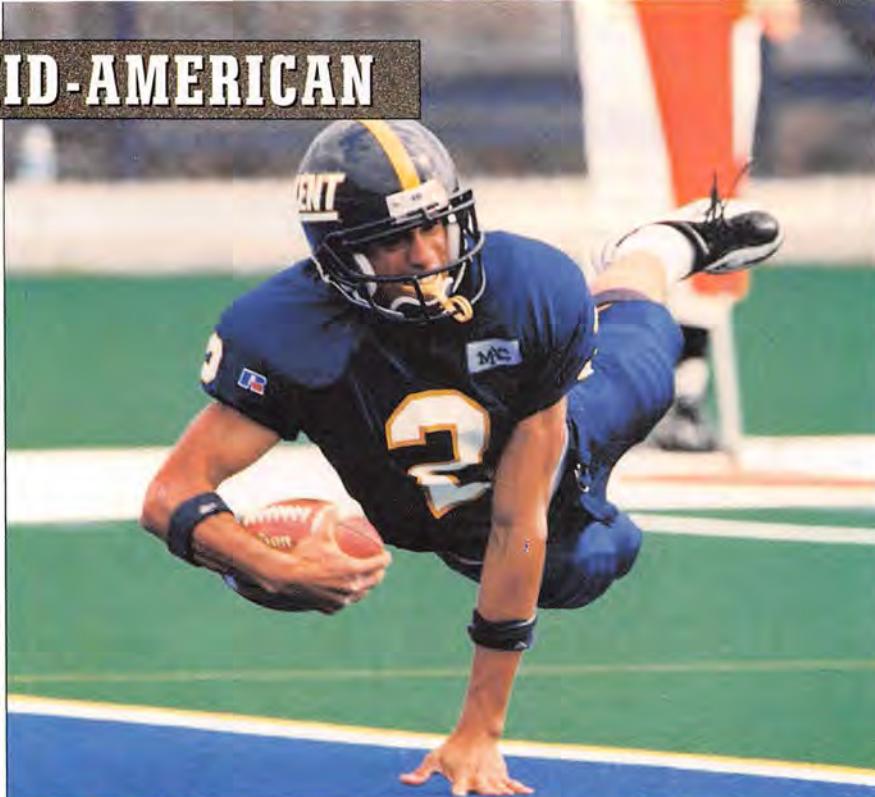
There are 10 starters back on offense, with fullback Jamie Reader the only departure. James Washington has the early edge at quarterback and tailback Greg Lomax averaged 6.6 yards per carry while running for 835 yards. Willie Spencer had 43 receptions. The five-man front features four 300-pounders and is led by converted tight end Kevin Kurtz and junior Dan Wessman at guard.

Akron has three vacancies in its defensive line but may get help from former

Joe O'Neill, Bowling Green



MID-AMERICAN



Eugene Baker, Kent

offensive linemen Paul Ondrusk and Bowling Green transfer John Lurtz, a former linebacker. A strength could be the secondary, with Andre McCray, Jerome Cargile, and Rich Reliford.

KENT

The Golden Flashes have a wide receiver, Eugene Baker, capable of creating offense in a flash. Baker's total of 2,828 career receiving yards is the conference record and his 180 catches are only three shy of the MAC mark. His 31 touchdown catches already are a Mid-American high. The 6-2, 160-pound senior had 103 receptions in 11 games last fall, good for 18 touchdowns and 1,549 yards. Baker had 15 catches in three different games and caught a 98-yard score from Jose Davis against Central Florida.

Davis set school records with 194 completions and 2,707 yards while throwing for 32 touchdowns. He set a conference record with 551 passing yards against Central Florida and completed 34 of 59 against Akron. William Young had 35 catches for 457 yards, including seven against Western Michigan. The running game, will probably be led by senior Charles Chatman, who averaged 6.8 yards on 60 carries. Others back on offense include tight end Jason Gavadza and linemen Jeff Krysiak and Dennis Glasby.

Unfortunately for Kent (3-8), the Flashes gave up more than 30 points 10 times, including 62 to Navy and Miami

and 59 to Central Florida. Improving the defense thus becomes the priority for new coach Dean Pees, who has seven returning regulars on that unit. They include end Brad Hartman, linebacker Curtis Witherpoon, and cornerback Wayne Shaw.

WEST DIVISION

TOLEDO

The Rockets stunned Big Ten contender Purdue in their opening game, then went on to prove it was no fluke by winning their next seven and finishing with a 9-3 mark. Toledo suffered its only regular-season loss in the league to Ball State, and lost to Marshall in the MAC championship game.

The already potent running game, featuring all-MAC tailback Dwayne Harris, will be even better if 1995 standout Wasean Tait can return from a knee injury he suffered in the '96 opener against Indiana. Tait, who ran for 1,905 yards in '95, has had four operations since.

Toledo lost all-conference standouts Jason Richards, Clarence Love, and Marcus Matthews from the defense but has four second-team all-MAC performers back on offense: tackle Colin Westrich, tight end Mike Bilik, wideout Brock Kretzberg, and quarterback Chris Wallace, who broke 10 school records while throwing for 2,955 yards and 27 TDs.

Toledo probably has its most talented offensive team in coach Gary Pinkel's eight years, with solid competition at several positions. The defense is younger, but looks good at cornerback with Kelly Hern-

don and Jameel Turner. Gregg King returns at defensive end, Darrick Beckwith is back at outside linebacker, and Jason Lamar and Matt Vaillant are set inside.

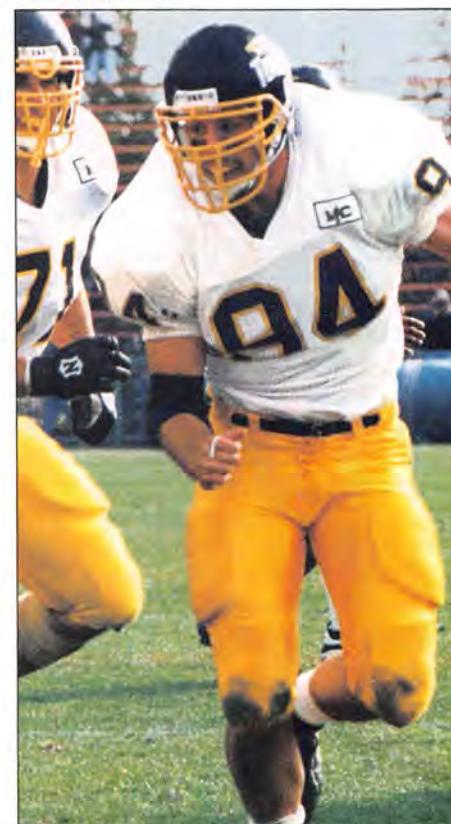
WESTERN MICHIGAN

The Broncos went 8-3 in their first season under Gary Darnell, who welcomes back 15 starters in a bid to improve a runner-up finish in the West Division. WMU won its last six games.

Quarterback Tim Lester and fullback Robert Sanford are among nine returning starters on offense. Lester completed 58 percent of his passes for 2,160 yards and 17 scores. Sanford ran for 1,033 yards as a freshman, the first Bronco to hit 1,000 in nine years. Jesse Turner and Darnell Fields share halfback duties, while tight end Jake Moreland starts for the third year. Corey Alston had 32 catches as a freshman and Steve Neal had 31. The veteran line features Mike Kershner, Paul Lambert, and Charlie Knapp.

Western Michigan led the league in sacks (41). Tackle Dan Falcon will get support from Nate Wolkow, who had 13 tackles for loss, plus Tom Rozema, Jeremy Johnson, and Eric Bettys. Linebacker Scott Niles had 95 tackles. William Reed and Eric Nunlee are the most experienced backs and should get help from junior college transfer Dashaun Richard.

Mike Bilik, Toledo



BALL STATE

Coach Bill Lynch will have eight regulars back on offense from a 5-6 team but needs to replace eight defenders. The Cardinals lost six of their first seven games before rallying with a four-game winning streak that included a 35-3 romp over West Division champion Toledo, the Cards' first victory ever over a top 25 team.

Jake Josetti completed only 49 percent of his passes and had 14 interceptions and 13 touchdowns. Adrian Reese caught 30 passes and had 113 yards in receptions against Indiana. LeAndre Moore averaged 5.1 yards a carry and gained 884 yards. Tight end gets a boost with the expected return of 6-5, 260-pound Dane Wheeler, who missed the '97 season with a knee injury. He joins Matt Ehrhardt, Joe Schmitt, Jason Hasty, and Aaron Johnson on the line. Mike Pickett is back at fullback.

Tackle Damon Hummel anchors the defense. He had a season-high nine tackles against Toledo. Other returnees are Sunungura Rusununguko at tackle and Ernest Pressley at outside linebacker.

EASTERN MICHIGAN

Fourth-year coach Rick Rasnick lost 13 regulars but still believes he has a solid nucleus from a 4-7 team. The major losses were quarterback Charlie Batch and tailbacks Savon Edwards and Mike Scott, who left with 19 school and conference records.

Walt Church, who passed for 2,151 yards when Batch was injured in 1996, is coming off a redshirt season. Ben Washington and Idris Wells will share tailback. The offense will get a spark from Justin Ventura, who has hit 34 of 49 field goals and needs only 16 points to become the school's leading scorer. The line is anchored by 6-6, 325-pound L.J. Shelton and includes veterans Tom Michel and Clay Mihaere. Vance Danzy and Craig Cipa are capable guards. An experienced group of wide receivers includes Ta-if Kumasi, Jermaine Sheffield, Brandon Campbell, and Keijuan Douglas.

Rasnick's major concerns are on defense, where linebacker Clifton Robinson, end Troy Campbell, and free safety Phil Franklin are solid. Jeremaine Kyles will bolster the line and Matt Driscoll and Randy Santa move in at linebacker. Leaders in the secondary are Demetrius Johnson, James Willingham, David Taylor, and Anthony Smith.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

A leaky defense that allowed an average of 44 points and 481 yards a game was the major reason for the Chippewas' 2-9 record. Coach Dick Flynn has brought in Brian VanGorder as defensive coordinator and added Willie Martinez as secondary coach and Jim Boccher to direct the ends.

A schedule that includes games at Iowa and Michigan State won't make it easy to reverse the Chippewas' fortunes. The defensive line is anchored by C.J. Remmo, Calvin Massenberg, and Jon McCall. Jason and Jeremy Gold are set at linebacker. Shawn Williams has started for four years at cornerback and Brian Leigeib is entrenched at free safety.

Gone from the offense is quarterback Tim Crowley, with sophomore Pete Shepherd the likely successor. Tailback Silas Massey is back after missing the '97 season with a knee injury. He ran for 1,089 yards in '95 and 1,544 yards in '96. Bryan Schorman (56 catches) and Reggie Allen (50) are the top receivers. The line features seniors Gene Miller, Doug Bon tekoe, and Mike Cipa.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

The Huskies' return to the Mid-American Conference resulted in an 0-11 record in which opponents

scored more than 35 points eight times, leaving Joe Novak with a 1-21 record in two seasons as head coach.

Northern Illinois had as many as 18 freshmen on its two-deep depth chart and had only six seniors who saw significant playing time. Novak retains 100 percent of his rushing and passing yardage and 96 percent of his receiving yards. Senior receiver Deon Mitchell, who caught 35 passes and ranked No. 11 nationally in kickoff returns, and sophomore tailback Ivory Bryant, who ran for 828 yards, are the main threats. Still, Northern Illinois ranked only 110th in total offense at 265 yards a game. The Huskies were impressed by the play of freshman quarterback Chris Finlen, who completed 57 percent of his passes in the last five games, helping the offense average 369 yards during that span, including 464 yards against a solid Ohio defense. Finlen will be backed up by sophomore Frisman Jackson, a sprinter.

The defense has nine returning starters and is anchored by tackles Dan Stankowski, Eric Dohrmann, and Rasche Hill. Lending support are linebacker Perry Amoo and deep backs Patrick Stephen and Duane Hawthorne. Novak is high on several newcomers, including 297-pound defensive tackle Lamain Rucker and Bowling Green transfer Anon Miller. ■

Reggie Allen, Central Michigan



PAC-10

In the year of the QB, UCLA has the best one in Cade McNown.

BY DWIGHT CHAPIN
SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

In 30 years of writing about West football, the subject has come up a few times, but this season it bears repeating: The Pac-10 is a quarterback conference. Almost every team seems to have a good one. A few schools have two good ones. And a couple of schools—UCLA and Washington—may have great ones in Cade McNown and Brock Huard.

Why does this conference turn out so many of them? Quarterback guru Paul Hackett, who takes over as head coach at USC this season, says, "I've always felt it had to do with the weather—guys being able to go out and throw the ball year-round. They develop skills quicker. For the most part, too, West Coast prep kids have stayed in the West. And the Pac-10 coaches have been influenced for a long time, going back to Stanford's Rose Bowl teams in the early '70s, by passing coaches like John Ralston, Dick Vermeil, and Mike White."

Stanford's new offensive coordinator, Bill Dierck, who helped develop Huard and his brother Damon at Washington, makes many of the same points as Hackett, and adds: "The heritage and tradition of the programs really do play a part now, too. A Ryan Leaf sees what Drew Bledsoe does at Washington State and knows he'll have the same opportunity. The quarterback talent we're getting in the Pac-10 now is pretty much homegrown."

With Leaf gone, McNown seems likely to step into the Pac-10 spotlight and lead the Bruins to the top this season, but Ryan Kealy of Arizona State, the Arizona tandem of Keith Smith and Ortege Jenkins, and the Huskies' Huard figure to have their teams in the title hunt. The dark horses look to be USC, with Jeff Van Raaphorst as the likely quarterback, and Oregon, with another talented QB tandem of Akili Smith and Jason Maas.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Cade McNown,
QB, UCLA

DEFENSE:

Larry Atkins,
SS, UCLA

NEWCOMER:

Kevin Brown,
RB, Washington State

GAMES TO WATCH

UCLA at Arizona,
October 10

Notre Dame at
Arizona State,
October 10

Arizona State at
Arizona,
November 27

UCLA

What started out on a sour note ended with the sweetest music in years for Bruin football. Coach Bob Toledo's team wound up just nine points short of an unbeaten season, dropping its first two games (to Washington State and Tennessee) and then sweeping the board, finishing with a 29–23 flourish over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl and a No. 5 national ranking. Toledo just needs to plug some holes on defense to keep the Bruins in the top 10.

The offense remains potent, notwithstanding the departure of running back Skip Hicks and wide receiver Jim McElroy. Senior quarterback Cade McNown is one of the front-runners for the Heisman Trophy after passing for a school-record 3,116 yards, tying Troy Aikman's mark with 24 TD passes, and throwing only six interceptions. He was, in a word, brilliant.

Jermaine Lewis and Keith Brown will try to fill in for Hicks's 1,282 yards rushing. But look out for freshman DeShaun Foster, who ran for 3,398 yards

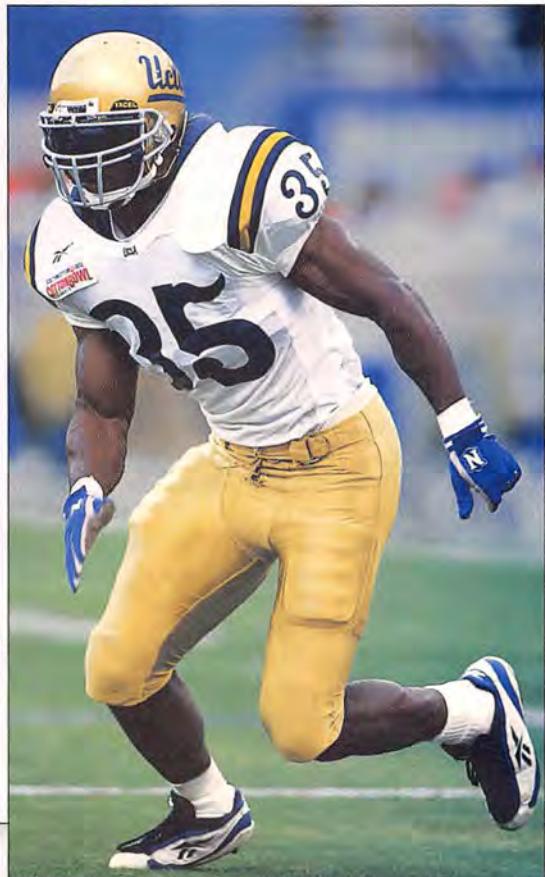
(No. 3 in California prep history) and scored 59 TDs last season at Tustin High. Craig Walen returns at fullback. Junior Danny Farmer (41 receptions for 649 yards) is back at wide receiver, with sophomore Brian Poli-Dixon, whose style is similar to that of former Bruin J.J. Stokes, likely at the other spot. Seniors Mike Grieb and Ryan Neufeld are solid tight ends. Whopping tackle Kris Farris (6-9, 310), guard Andy Meyers, and center Shawn Stuart return on the line.

The defense is less proven, but five players—nose guard Pete Holland, outside linebacker Brendon Ayanbadejo (15 tackles for loss), strong safety Larry Atkins (a Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist and second-team All-America), and cornerbacks Marques Anderson and Jason Bell—have starting experience. Other possible regulars: linemen Kenyon Coleman and Micah Webb, linebackers Michael Wiley, Ramogi Huma, and Tony White, and free safety Eric Whitfield (for star Shaun Williams). Double first-team All-America Chris Sailer again will handle the place-kicking and punting.

ARIZONA STATE

The Sun Devils look like an offensive machine, coming off a 9–3 record (6–2 and third place in the conference) and a victory over Iowa in the Sun Bowl. They also appear to need some help on defense, where seven starters were lost. Then again, it looked the same way after Bruce Snyder's squad lost six defenders from its 1996–97 Rose Bowl team, and coordinator

Larry Atkins, UCLA





Phil Snow came up with a unit that topped the Pac-10 in scoring defense and was No. 3 overall.

Do-everything linebacker Pat Tillman and safety Damien Richardson are among the missing. Quincy Yancy, Derrick Ford, Albrey Battle, and Ryan Reilly are the top candidates up front, where Jeremy Staat was another big loss. Look for transfers Erik Flowers and Junior Ioana to have an immediate impact. Joe Cesta will try to replace Tillman, with redshirt freshman Eric Fields at the other inside linebacker spot and either Stephen Trejo or Larry Johnson outside.

The secondary includes budding star Courtney Jackson and J'Juan Cherry at the corners and Mitchell "Fright Night" Freedman and Phillip Brown at the safeties, backed by the promising Christon Rance. Stephen Baker should be the punter, and he or Mike Gauthier is likely to take over as place-kicker.

Eight starters return from an offense that averaged 34 points and 458 yards during the final six regular-season games. There's a wide assortment of weapons, including Heisman Trophy candidate J.R. Redmond (865 yards rushing)—who may also play some at safety—and Marlon Farlow at tailback, 250-pound Jeff Pault at flyback, All-America candidate Lenzie Jackson (53 catches for 733 yards), Kenny Mitchell, and Ricky Boyer at wide

receiver, and Kendrick Bates at tight end.

Oh, yes, quarterback Ryan Kealy was a first-team Freshman All-America who threw for 2,137 yards. Up front is another All-America candidate in center Grey Ruegamer, plus returning regulars Marvel Smith at tackle and Victor Leyva at guard. Filling out the front are tackles Thomas Schmidt and Troy Davis and guards Scott Peters and Kaleb Ramsay.

ARIZONA

The Wildcats led the Pac-10 in total defense in 1997. No real surprise there. The vestiges of "Desert Swarm" still remain in Tucson. It was the offense that opened some eyes last season when it produced 402 yards a game,

the highest average since Arizona joined the conference in 1979, during a 7-5 campaign (4-4 and tied for fifth in the league). Most of the people who made that happen are back for coach Dick Tomey and new offensive coordinator Dino Babers. That includes the best quarterback tandem in the league, sophomore Ortege Jenkins and junior Keith Smith, as well as running backs Trung Canidate, Leon Callen, and Kelvin Eafon, and wide receivers Dennis Northcutt, Brad Brennan, and Jeremy McDaniel.

Smith is the nominal starter, but Jenkins threw for 19 TDs in just seven starts. Canidate was second in the Pac-10 with 5.8 yards per rush, Northcutt caught 58

J.R. Redmond, Arizona State

ALL-PAC-10 TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Cade McNown	SR	UCLA
RB	J.R. Redmond	JR	Arizona State
RB	Trung Canidate	JR	Arizona
WR	Troy Walters	SR	Stanford
WR	Lenzie Jackson	SR	Arizona State
TE	Mike Grieb	SR	UCLA
OL	Kris Farris	JR	UCLA
OL	Marco Aguirre	SR	Oregon
OL	Tony Coats	SR	Washington
OL	Travis Claridge	JR	USC
OL	Grey Ruegamer	SR	Arizona State
PK	Chris Sailer	SR	UCLA

DEFENSE

DL	Inoke Breckerfield	SR	Oregon State
DL	Gary Holmes	SR	Washington State
DL	Andre Carter	SO	California
LB	Chris Claiborne	JR	USC
LB	Peter Sirmon	JR	Oregon
LB	Lester Towns	JR	Washington
LB	Marcus Bell	JR	Arizona
DB	Chris McAlister	SR	Arizona
DB	Mitchell Freedman	SR	Arizona State
DB	Larry Atkins	SR	UCLA
DB	Dalton McCutcheon	SR	USC
P	Kevin Miller	SR	Stanford

PAC-10



Marcus Bell, Arizona

passes with nine TDs, McDaniels caught a school-record 14 passes for 283 yards in one game in '96, and Eafon was MVP of the 'Cats Insight.com Bowl victory over New Mexico.

Three starters are gone from the line, but tackle Edwin Multalo and guard Yusuf Scott are back, and newcomers Manuia Savea and Bruce Wiggins played well in the spring. Steven Grace should be the other guard, with veteran Mike Lucky and Brandon Manumaleuna at tight end.

Two-time all-Pac-10 cornerback Chris McAlister, an All-America and Jim Thorpe Award candidate who led the club with four interceptions, and inside linebacker Marcus Bell head a defense that also may include linemen Daniel Greer, Joe Tafoya, Idris Haroon, Anthony Thomas, Eli Wnek, and Ash Burrow; linebackers DaShon Polk, Stadford Glover, and Scooter Sprotte; safeties LaChaux Rich, Rafell Jones, and A.J. Brown; and corner Kelvin Hunter. Transfer Greg Payne is a secondary reserve.

Mark McDonald hit all 31 of his PATs and two game-winning field goals, but Tomey is looking for better punting out of Ryan Springston or Chris Palic. The 'Cats netted just 33.2 yards a kick.

all-Pac-10 selections off a squad that was 8-4 (5-3 in the conference) and beat Michigan State 51-23 in the Aloha Bowl.

The offense will be minus All-America linemen Olin Kreutz and Benji Olson, tailback Rashaan Shehee, receivers Jerome Pathon and Fred Coleman, and tight ends Cameron Cleeland and Jeremy Brigham. But there's a huge plus in returning quarterback Brock Huard, an All-America and Heisman Trophy candidate who passed for 2,140 yards and needs only 1,875 more to surpass brother Damon's school record. He has a very promising backup in sophomore Marques Tuiasosopo.

Tailbacks Maurice Shaw and Jason Harris saw playing time when Shehee was hurt and Pat Conniff returns at fullback. But there's little experience at receiver, where speedster Ja'Warren Hooker, Andre DeSaussure, Gerald Harris, and transfer Dane Looker will compete. Reggie Davis has been moved from H-back to tight end, and All-America candidate Tony Coats will move from tackle to guard in a line that also returns starters Aaron Dalan at tackle and Chad Ward at guard. Elliot Silvers has moved to tackle, with Brad Hutt at center.

Former walk-on place-kicker Nick Lentz and punter Sean O'Laughlin (39.2-yard average) are back. Two regulars, tackle Mac Tuiae and nose tackle Jabari Issa, return to a defensive front that held seven of 12 opponents under 100 yards rushing. Honors candidate Lester Towns and Marques Hairston return at inside linebacker. There are three two-year starters back in the secondary: corners Mel Miller and Jermaine Smith and rover Nigel Burton. Backup Brendan Jones is

WASHINGTON

Coach Jim Lambright and his staff spent most of spring practice teaching a group of very young players, and if the lessons were learned well, this could be another dangerous Husky team despite the loss of 11 starters and seven

Lester Towns, Washington



the top candidate to replace Tony Parrish at free safety. The other likely starters are converted linebacker Jeremiah Pharms at end and Ryan Julian and Todd Johnson at outside linebacker.

USC

Gone are the days when you just pencil in the Trojans as one of the top two or three teams in the Pac-10. USC is the conference's mystery team now, capable of producing a big season under new coach Paul Hackett, the former offensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs, or coming up with just another year of unrealized expectations. USC wound up with a 6-5 record (4-4 and a tie for fifth in the Pac-10) in John Robinson's final season at Troy.

On paper, the Trojans do look better, with 15 starters back, and no major losses except cornerback Brian Kelly and punter Jim Wren. Hackett installed sophomore Mike Van Raaphorst at quarterback in the spring, ahead of junior John Fox, a nine-game starter in '97. Running back remains open, with Chad Morton, Malaefou MacKenzie, and Petros Papadakis being pushed by freshmen Miguel Fletcher, Sultan McCullough, and Frank Strong at tailback; Marvin Powell III and Ted Iacenda are the top hopefuls at fullback.

There's no uncertainty at wide receiver. All-America candidate R. Jay Soward (17.3-yard average), who had academic problems in the spring, leading receiver Billy Miller (56 receptions), Mike Bastianelli, and injury redshirt Larry Parker compose the league's best unit. The line returns tight end Antoine Harris, tackles Ken Bowen and Rome Douglas, and guard Travis Claridge. Place-kicker Adam Abrams is one of the nation's best, with freshmen Mike MacGillivray and Jeff Weichman competing to replace Wren.

Eight regulars return from a defensive unit that was tops in the Pac-10 and No. 8 in the nation against the run (93.8-yard average) but susceptible to the pass (conference-worst 266.5 yards a game). Starting 1996 safety Grant Pearsall, who missed last season with an injury, should help a secondary that returns two excellent corners, Daylon McCutcheon and freshman All-America Antuan Simmons, and safeties Rashard Cook and David Gibson. All-league first-teamer Chris Claiborne and Mark Cusano head the linebacking corps, with Mark Matlock and Sultan Abdul-Malik returning up front. Lawrence Larry and Aaron Williams may join them.



Daylon McCutcheon, USC

OREGON

The Ducks were 7-5 overall and hammered Air Force 41-13 in the Las Vegas Bowl. But they were just 3-5 in the Pac-10 and lost some crucial components from what was often an offensive powerhouse in '97: league rushing leader Saladin McCullough, wide receiver Pat Johnson, and tight end Blake Spence. The three accounted for almost 66 percent of the team's all-purpose yardage.

The loss of the quicksilver Johnson and his 1,072 receiving yards will be

eased some by the return of 1996 starter Damon Griffin, who is back from a thumb injury to team with Tony Hartley (8 TD catches). But McCullough's 1,343 rushing yards will be tougher to make up for. Kevin Parker and Derien Latimer will work at tailback, with converted defensive back Chris Young likely to replace Eric Winn at fullback.

Coach Mike Bellotti may alternate Jason Maas and Akili Smith at quarterback again. The two passed for nearly 3,000 yards last fall. Jed Weaver could be at tight end, with veterans Marco Aguirre and Michael Klews at tackle, Stefan DeVries and Lee Gundy or Mike Armendariz at guard, and Deke Moen at center.

The defense was not nearly so good as the offense. But there is one star in linebacker Peter Sirmon, who led the Pac-10 with 115 tackles. He'll start inside with Chris Vandiver or Jeff Simpson; Dietrich Moore and Garrett Sabol should be outside. The line returns three regulars in Terry Miller, Saul Patu, and Leie Sualua, as Bellotti looks to do a better job in stopping the run.

Cornerbacks Eric Edwards and Rashad Bauman again head the secondary, which also should include Michael Fletcher or Gary Barker at rover and Justin Wilcox or Brandon McLemore at free safety. Punter Josh Bidwell (40.8-yard average) is among the Pac-10's best, but place-kicker Joshua Smith could be pushed to hold his job.

WASHINGTON STATE

Coming off one of the finest seasons in Cougar history (10-2 overall, 7-1 and co-championship in the Pac-10

Gary Holmes, Washington State



PAC-10

and a trip to the Rose Bowl), coach Mike Price talks about "reloading." But it looks more like rebuilding time in Pullman, with 27 players gone, including quarterback Ryan Leaf, 1,157-yard rusher Michael Black, the three top receivers, and defensive stars Dorian Boose and Leon Bender. Just two starters return on offense and four on defense.

Steve Birnbaum draws the assignment of trying to replace Leaf, who turned pro a year early. JC All-America Kevin Brown (1,763 total yards at San Francisco CC) will vie with DeJuan Gilmore for Black's spot. Honors candidate Nian Taylor (22 catches for 570 yards) and transfers Alexe Rodopolos and Leaford Hackett head the receiving corps.

The two returning offensive regulars

Troy Walters, Stanford

are tight end Love Jefferson and tackle Rob Rainville. The rest of the line, while green, could be more athletic than the 1997 unit. Jon Ottenbreit or Mickey Long may open at center, with Ryan Tujague and Mike Sage at guard. But the "twin tower" Raymond brothers, 6-8 Reed and 6-7 Ryan, also figure.

The defense retains honors candidates Gary Holmes at tackle and Lamont Thompson at free safety, along with linebacker and leading tackler Steve Gleason and cornerback Dee Moronkola. Rob Meier, Jonathan Nance, and Taeao Salausa may join Holmes up front.

Linebackers Brad Philey, James Price, Grady Emmerson, Raonall Smith, and Tupu Tuupo will bid for playing time with Gleason, and corner LeJuan Gibbons and strong safety Torry Hollimon are likely to fill out the secondary. Junior Rian Lindell (12 of 17 field goals and 57 PATs) could be one of the nation's better kickers; transfer

Kareem Anderson should capably replace Jeff Banks as the punter.

STANFORD

Nobody expected much from Tyrone Willingham's first Cardinal team in 1995, but that young squad managed a 7-4-1 record and a Liberty Bowl berth. The coach will be happy with a similar showing by his 1998 team, which returns just nine starters and may lose quarterback Chad Hutchinson to pro baseball. Willingham is stressing teamwork to try to improve on a 5-6 record (3-5 in the Pac-10).

If Hutchinson does not return, it will be either Randy Fasani or Todd Husak at quarterback. Wide receiver Troy Walters set school records with 86 receptions for 1,206 yards. DeRonnie Pitts, Jeff Allen, and David Davis have to emerge to share the load with Walters, and running back could be a major problem, with Anthony Bookman, Mike Mitchell, Jon Ritchie, and Greg Comella all gone.

The unproven Juan Carlos-Lacey looks like the No. 1 tailback, backed by Coy Wire, with Maxwell Stevenson at fullback. The line could be a strength, with Jeff Cronshagen and Geoff Wilson at tackle, Joe Fairchild at guard, and Mike McLaughlin returning at center. The other guard likely will be Andrew Kroeker, with Russell Stewart at tight end.

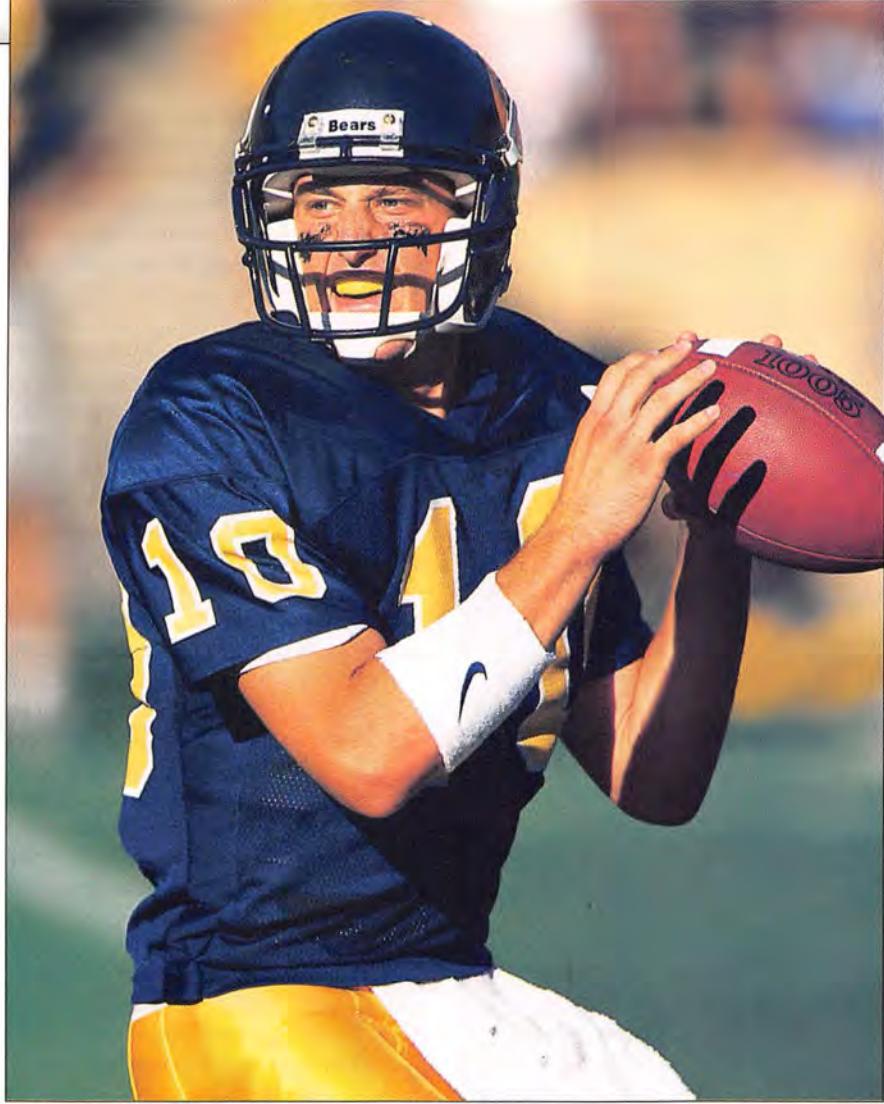
The defense is an even bigger question mark, particularly in the line, where Kailee Wong, Carl Hansen, and Bryan Werner have departed, and in a secondary that was burned repeatedly last season. Tackle Willie Howard returns up front, where Andrew Curries and Riall Johnson need to blossom. Corner Chris Johnson will likely be joined by Frank Primus and safeties Than Merrill and Tim Smith.

Marc Stockbauer and Sharcus Steen should be capable replacements for Chris Draft and Jon Haskins at inside linebacker, and starter Donnie Spragan returns on the outside. Kevin Miller is a solid punter, but Willingham hopes Patrick Shinnefield or Mike Biselli will take over the place-kicking.

CALIFORNIA

Tom Holmoe says he knew that youth and inexperience would be problems going into his first season as coach of the Bears, who finished just 3-8 overall and 1-7 in the Pac-10. "But that excuse won't fly this season," he said, "for the coaching staff, or, most impor-





Justin Vedder, California

tantly, the players." It still may be quite a leap between word and deed for Holmoe's squad, however.

If the Bears do fulfill Holmoe's wish of getting to a bowl, it will be because of their defense. Coordinator Lyle Setencich's unit played very well in spurts last fall. Andre Carter, who figures to blossom as a sophomore, plus the underrated Jerry DeLoach and Mawuko Tugbenyoh are back up front, with veterans Matt Beck and Sekou Sanyika returning at linebacker, along with redshirts Keith Miller and Nate Geldermann.

Improvement is needed in a secondary that produced just four interceptions. Running back Deltha O'Neal has moved to cornerback, and he or Chidi Iwuoma could work with Derrick Gardner. Marquis Smith is a prime-time safety. He will team with Pete Destefano. Punter Nick Harris is a potential star, but place-kickers Ignacio Brache and Tim Wollock have been inconsistent.

Quarterback Justin Vedder threw for more than 2,700 yards, but the offense needs to be more explosive. Vedder will be working with seven other veterans: running backs Marcus Fields and Joshua

White, wide receiver Dameane Douglas, tight end Brian Surgener, tackle John Welbourn, and guards Yauger Williams and Kevin Swillis. Two pro draftees, center Jeremy Newberry and receiver Bobby Shaw, were huge losses. Phillip Pipersburg or Bruce Pierre may start in Shaw's spot, with Caleb Brown or Reed Diehl taking over for Newberry. Redshirt freshman Langston Walker will get a look at tackle and John Romero will compete at guard.

OREGON STATE

The Beavers went 3-2 in five straight home games at the start and nearly upset Arizona State and Stanford. So, although they finished just 3-8 overall and 0-8 in the Pac-10, they look to be making some progress under Mike Riley, who begins his second season in Corvallis with 19 players who started at least six games. That includes multitalented ex-quarterback Tim Alexander, who didn't quite fit Riley's plans for more drop-back passing and is moving to flanker. Transfer Terrance Bryant or Tyler Tomich will

vie for the quarterback spot.

Alexander will team with Greg Ainsworth (49 catches for 600 yards), Roddy Tompkins (46-538), and Robert Prescott in a deep receiving corps. The rushing attack, led by Alexander last fall, remains a concern. Jason Dandridge, DeShawn Williams, and Ricky Walker return at tailback and Johnno Lazetich at fullback. Four line starters are back: tight end Joe Kuykendall, tackle Matt Gartung, guard Larry Ramirez, and center Aaron Koch. The other regulars may be Robert Sykes and Keith DiDomenico.

The defense gave up too many big plays in the second half last season, when the line began to wear down. Riley is hoping for more staying power from the likes of second-team all-conference end Inoke Breckterfield (8 sacks), James Greule, Aaron Wells, Shawn Ball, Jason Mageo, and Alex Sawatzke.

Linebacker Nathan McAtee and cornerback Basheer Elahee are gone, but leading tackler Brian Rogers and Bryan Jones return at linebacker, and Andrae Holland, Armon Hatcher, and Terrence Carroll in the secondary. Bret Hopkins and Mike Fessler will compete for the punting job, with Jose Cortez back as the place-kicker.

Inoke Breckterfield, Oregon State



SEC

It's still the same old SEC story, with Florida on top yet again.

BY TOMMY HICKS

MOBILE REGISTER

You can't tell the SEC quarterbacks without a scorecard this season, with half the league turning the ball over to new players at the position. Gone is Tennessee's Peyton Manning, Auburn's Dameyune Craig, Georgia's Mike Bobo (and Hines Ward, who played the position at times), Alabama's Freddie Kitchens and Lance Tucker, Ole Miss's Stewart Patridge, and Vanderbilt's Damian Allen.

Arkansas welcomes new coach Houston Nutt. Vanderbilt has a new offensive coordinator in Steve Crosby, and Alabama is looking to put more production in its offense with the hiring of new coordinator Neil Callaway.

Yet this will not be just a season of replacements and newness. LSU welcomes back a corps of running backs second to none with Kevin Faulk, Cecil "The Diesel" Collins, Rondell Mealey, and Kendall Cleveland. Florida's front seven on defense, led by Ed Chester, Jevon Kearse, and Johnny Rutledge, makes the Gators a contender again. Arkansas has 20 starters back from last season and Auburn returns 18.

With all that's new in the SEC, it's still likely to be the same old story: Florida and Tennessee fighting it out for the East title while LSU and Auburn (and possibly even Ole Miss) shooting for the West crown. Last season was the first that Florida did not make it to the SEC championship game and only the second time a team other than Alabama was the West representative. Yet Florida wound up as the SEC's highest-ranked team (No. 4). Florida, Tennessee, Auburn, LSU, and Ole Miss all finished in the final top 25 polls.

Some of the league's stars have moved on to the NFL and a new batch (along with a talented group of veterans that includes Kentucky's Tim Couch, Faulk, Kearse, Georgia's Matt Stinchcomb, and Tennessee's Jamal Lewis) return. As much as things change in the SEC, the more they remain the same.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Tim Couch,
QB, Kentucky

DEFENSE:

Jevon Kearse,
LB, Florida

NEWCOMER:

Tyler Watts,
QB, Alabama

GAMES TO WATCH

Florida at Tennessee,
September 19

LSU at Auburn,
September 19

LSU at Florida,
October 10

Florida at Florida St.,
November 21

SEC EAST

FLORIDA

The Gators have another quarterback controversy, but more on that later. The story of this year's team—and its success—will be written by the defense. In the Steve Spurrier era, the key for opponents has been to outscore the Gators. That task has been made more difficult since the arrival of defensive coordinator Bob Stoops. It will be especially difficult this season. All of Florida's front seven defenders are back, and they are talented.

Leading the way are tackles Ed Chester and Reggie McGrew, ends Willie Cohens and Tim Beauchamp, and linebackers Jevon Kearse, Johnny Rutledge, and Mike Peterson. Tony George and Teako Brown lead the secondary that will also feature the shift of wide receiver Mike Gipson to cornerback.

Back to quarterback, the most visible Gator posi-

tion. Doug Johnson appeared to be the starter until a bad spring game, pain in his right (throwing) shoulder, and the progress of Jesse Palmer. The effect of his shoulder injury won't be determined until this fall. In the meantime, Palmer has the reins, having looked strong throughout spring drills.

The offensive line, led by tackles Zach Piller and Cooper Carlisle and guard Ryan Kalich, should provide plenty of time for the quarterback. Terry Jackson has been moved from fullback to tailback and speedy Bo Carroll has been moved from tailback to wide receiver, a position that has lost three players (Ike Hilliard, Jacquez Green, and Reidel Anthony) to the NFL in the past two seasons. Nafis Karim and Travis McGriff will be back at receiver, which will get help from incoming freshmen. Other losses: wide receiver Jamie Richardson was dismissed from the team and prized recruit James McGriff drowned in April.

Florida opens with The Citadel and Northeast Louisiana before traveling to Knoxville to meet Tennessee. The next five games find the Gators facing Kentucky, Alabama, LSU, Auburn, and Georgia and finishing at Florida State on November 21. If the defense allows the offense time to mold, this could be another big season for Florida.

TENNESSEE

It's Tee Time in Tennessee. Tee Martin, the talented quarterback-in-waiting, takes over the offense. He has the unenviable task of trying to fill the shoes of Peyton Manning, perhaps the most popular player in Vols' football history. Now it is time for Martin, a strong-armed junior, to show what he learned.

Martin's job will be made easier by the return of sophomore tailback Jamal Lewis, who rushed for more than 1,300 yards as a freshman. Receiver Peer-

Johnny Rutledge, Florida





Jamal Lewis, Tennessee

less Price, fullback Shawn Bryson, receiver Jeremaine Copeland, and linemen Cosey Coleman, Chad Clifton, and Spencer Riley also return. With Martin's mobility and his ability to throw on the run, the Vols should have added dimension to their offense. With Lewis and Bryson in the backfield, opposing defenses will not be able to focus solely on Martin. Tennessee has always been able to produce on offense, and this year's team should be no different. The Vols will be confident, notwithstanding the departure of Manning, especially after earning their first berth in the SEC championship game.

That swings the focus to the defense, where five starters return, including linebacker and all-SEC prospect Al Wilson. Yet Wilson can't be blamed if he feels lonely. Gone are defensive teammates Leonard Little, Terry Fair, Tori Noel, Jonathan Brown, and Cory Gaines. Raynoch Thompson is back at linebacker and Dwayne Goodrich should be a standout in the secondary. Tackle Ron Green rejoins them.

Tennessee, which hasn't shied away from tough nonconference foes in recent seasons, opens at Syracuse, followed by an off week and then a home game vs. Florida. After Houston visits, the Vols meet Auburn, Georgia, and Alabama.

This could be the Vols' season again if the defense develops quickly and Martin fits the offense like a Tee.

KENTUCKY

Rarely has there been such a swell of support for a team that produced a 5-6 record (2-6 in SEC), but that was the case last season at Kentucky. The

fervor was created by quarterback Tim Couch and coach Hal Mumme's pass-pass-pass offense. Of course, it comes from a school that has had trouble winning football games in recent seasons.

That may be changing. If Mumme can assemble a defense that can at least slow down the scoring pace of opponents, then the Wildcats have a chance to improve on the 5-6 mark. The marriage of Couch's talents and Mumme's offensive schemes was one made in Big Blue Heaven. Couch passed for 3,884 yards and 37 touchdowns. Craig Yeast became a bona fide threat at wide receiver (73 catches, 873 yards, 10 TDs). Senior Lance Mickelsen starts opposite Yeast, but junior backup Jimmy Robinson led all receivers with 19 catches in the spring scrimmages.

The Cats beat Alabama in overtime, weaved their way past a strong Vanderbilt defense, and continued to win their nonconference games (3-0). Yet a rushing attack that produced just eight touchdowns and a line that sometimes didn't allow Couch much time must improve if Kentucky's record is to improve. It won't hurt that nine starters are back on offense, including four linemen (led by Kris Com-

stock) and tight end Jimmy Haley.

The defense is the area of greatest concern. Freshmen have a chance to contribute immediately. Some experienced help will also be available, including linebackers Jeff Snedegar and Marlon McCree, free safety Willie Gary, and tackles Mark Jacobs and Marvin Major.

The Cats begin with three straight nonconference games (Louisville, Eastern Kentucky, and Indiana) before league play, which begins in Gainesville and ends in Knoxville. In between, there's a trip to LSU and a home game against Georgia.

Defense will determine how good Kentucky is, or if the Cats are simply a passing fancy.

GEORGIA

Do the Bulldogs still have plenty of bite? That's the question being asked as Georgia prepares for the '98 season. Gone are several key players, including tailback Robert Edwards, quarterback Mike Bobo, all-everything Hines Ward, and linebackers Greg Bright and Brandon Tolbert. Those are tough losses for the Dawgs, who put together a 10-2 record

ALL-SEC TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Tim Couch	JR	Kentucky
RB	Kevin Faulk	SR	LSU
RB	Jamal Lewis	SO	Tennessee
WR	Craig Yeast	SR	Kentucky
WR	Peerless Price	SR	Tennessee
TE	Rufus French	JR	Ole Miss
OL	Matt Stinchcomb	SR	Georgia
OL	Jeno James	JR	Auburn
OL	Jamar Nesbit	SR	South Carolina
OL	Chris Samuels	JR	Alabama
OL	Brandon Burlsworth	SR	Arkansas
PK	Jeff Hall	SR	Tennessee

DEFENSE:

DL	Ed Chester	SR	Florida
DL	Jimmy Brumbaugh	SR	Auburn
DL	Anthony McFarland	SR	LSU
DL	Chris Hood	SR	Alabama
LB	Jevon Kearse	JR	Florida
LB	Johnny Rutledge	SR	Florida
LB	Al Wilson	SR	Tennessee
DB	Fernando Bryant	SR	Alabama
DB	Champ Bailey	JR	Georgia
DB	Mark Roman	JR	LSU
DB	Arturo Freeman	SR	South Carolina
P	Jeff Walker	JR	Mississippi State

(6-2 in SEC) last fall, losing only to Auburn and Tennessee.

Replacing Bobo is the top priority. The leading candidates are Mike Usry and Jon England, who have limited experience. There's also redshirt freshman Daniel Cobb, freshman Nate Hybl, and *Parade* prep All-America Quincy Carter. In the past seven seasons, Georgia has had only two quarterbacks (Bobo and Eric Zeier).

Whoever gets the job will get help. Olandis Gary and Patrick Pass are at running back. The line features tackles Chris Perry and All-America candidate Matt Stinchcomb, who will be joined by his brother, *Parade* All-America Jon Stinchcomb, this fall. Tight end Larry Brown also helps.

Defensively, the secondary is the Dawgs' strength, with Champ Bailey and Kirby Smart leading the way. The line has depth, but linebacker is a huge concern. The greater concern, however, is injuries. Georgia was plagued throughout spring drills with physical woes. The Dawgs will depend on several incoming freshmen to play roles this season. The key for suc-

Jimmy Robinson, Kentucky



cess will be how quickly the players mesh once all parties—the new and the recovering—are together.

The schedule finds some tough spots, with games against LSU, Tennessee, Florida, Auburn, Ole Miss, and Georgia Tech.

SOUTH CAROLINA

It's Year 5 for Brad Scott, and the Gamecock faithful are getting a bit restless. South Carolina was 5-6 (3-5 in SEC) last fall. Better marks are expected. That may be tough, but Scott is making some changes and hoping the health of his team improves.

New offensive coordinator Chuck Reedy has switched the Gamecocks from the one-back, shotgun sets of a year ago to a more traditional I-formation, power-running attack. Anthony Wright is expected to direct that offense, but he is still recovering from knee surgery. What's more, backups Vic Penn and Phil Petty were also injured this spring: Penn suffered a fractured clavicle and Petty a severely sprained ankle. That left two walk-ons, Kevin Sides and Kyle Crabb, getting all the snaps the final two weeks of spring practice.

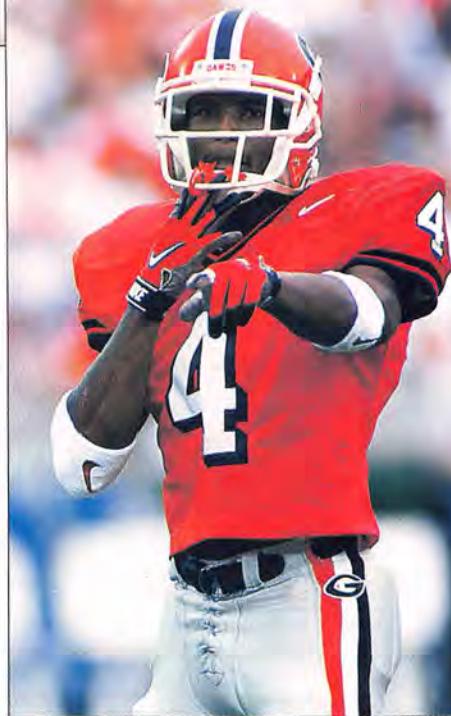
Running back Troy Hambrick should be more effective in the new alignment, but there will be several new faces up front. The line lacks depth. All-SEC pick Jamar Nesbit may move from tackle to center. Andray Spearman rejoins him. Receivers Zola Davis and Jermale Kelly and running back Boo Williams offer help.

Defensively, Arturo Freeman is the leader at free safety. Unfortunately for the Gamecocks (or fortunately, considering the consequences if he had not been back there), Freeman has been South Carolina's leading tackler the past two seasons. That goes against the aim of a defense designed to create opportunities for the linebackers. Five regulars are back, including linebacker Corey Atkins.

The Gamecocks begin the season with four consecutive home games (Ball State, Georgia, Marshall, and Mississippi State), but their final three games are against Tennessee, Florida, and Clemson, with the latter two on the road. There is much work to do for South Carolina to make a charge.

VANDERBILT

Consider this: The Commodores were one of the most respected defenses in the country last season, led by linebacker Jamie Duncan and back Corey



Champ Bailey, Georgia

Chavous. Now consider this: Vandy's offense has rarely been considered a threat, including last season, when it produced just 275 yards a game and only 16 touchdowns. Further consideration: Duncan and Chavous are in the NFL, although head coach and defensive expert Woody Widenhofer remains. New offensive coordinator Steve Crosby is working to improve the Commodores' passing game.

What does it all mean? Probably more of the same for Vandy. The Commodores were one of the country's worst offensive teams a year ago. It would take a drastic change to improve their SEC standing (0-8) and overall record (3-8).

Linebacker Jamie Winborn is back on defense, along with cornerback Fred Vinson, who was overshadowed last fall by Chavous. Damien Charley saw considerable action in the secondary and on special teams. Jimmy Williams, an all-SEC freshman selection as a tailback, will do some double duty in the offensive and defensive backfields.

Redshirt receiver Adam Ditto could be the main target. Junior Hi Lewis leads the way at quarterback, although the starter may be one of three incoming freshmen: Sean O'Connor, Justin Purkey, and David Wallace.

The schedule features road trips to Mississippi State, Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky, with Florida, Tennessee, and Ole Miss visiting Nashville.

Last season, Widenhofer preached the virtues of having fun, what was termed "Woody Ball." This year, fun may be defined by winning a game against an SEC opponent.

SEC WEST**LSU**

Herb Tyler's passing has improved, but no one may notice. That's because the Tigers have perhaps the best running backs in the country, led by senior Kevin Faulk and featuring juniors Cecil "The Diesel" Collins and Rondell Mealey, senior Kendall Cleveland, and redshirt freshman LaVar Johnson. With all that talent and 17 returning regulars, LSU is in a rush to get started with the '98 season.

LSU plans to make use of Faulk (and a couple of others) in a variety of ways, having backs go in motion and using them as receivers. That will create problems for defenses. And, yes, the backs will run with the ball, too. A solid rushing attack, Tyler's improved passing game, and the return of receivers Larry Foster and Abram Booty and four linemen make the Tigers, who shared the West Division crown with Auburn last fall, a threat for an outright SEC title this season. Many believe it will be theirs.

On defense, LSU features Anthony McFarland on the line, Charles Smith and Joe Wesley at linebacker, and Mark Roman, Chris Beard, and Chris Cummings in the secondary. McFarland has lost 20 pounds, making him a more effective (and quicker) pass rusher for new defensive coordinator Lou Tepper, who has installed a 3-4 scheme.

So what's new? Well, a backup quarterback must be found, and the search has centered on redshirt freshmen Rohan Davey and Craig Nall. LSU is also on the lookout for a place-kicker. Starting tight end Joe Domingeaux suffered a knee injury this spring and will not play this season.

What's the same? LSU still must deal with Auburn, Alabama, and Ole Miss in chasing the West crown. The schedule is tough. Auburn falls between Arkansas State and Idaho, but then it's Georgia, Florida, and Kentucky, followed by Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Alabama, and Notre Dame before the finale against Arkansas.

There are some talented freshmen on their way to Baton Rouge, but those already in place are talented enough to lead LSU to the West title.

AUBURN

Terry Bowden has lost 25 pounds this spring—and lots of sleep thanks to off-the-field problems. On



Kevin Faulk, LSU

the field, while Auburn is considered a West Division contender, there are some problems that must be addressed as well.

Quarterback Dameyune Craig is gone, as are linebacker Takeo Spikes, place-kicker Jaret Holmes, offensive tackle Victory Riley, fullback Fred Beasley, and tight end Tyrone Dillard. They will be difficult to replace, especially Craig, who meant so much to Auburn's offense. Also missing are wide receiver Robert Baker (drug charges) and defensive back Martavious Houston (kicked off team for repeated rules violations).

Jimmy Brumbaugh has proved that he can play the defensive line, but he's coming off knee surgery. Demontray Carter has the speed, quickness, and moves needed by a running back, but he's prone to fumble. And who's going to be the quarterback? With these questions, why is Auburn a pick to chase the West title? Because the nucleus for a strong team returns (15 starters) and because the Tigers have displayed a tendency to perform better with their backs

SEC



Jimmy Brumbaugh, Auburn

to the wall. Receiver Karsten Bailey will be a key. The line features four returning regulars, led by tackle Jeno James. Defensively, Charles Dorsey, a load at nearly 300 pounds, enjoyed a good spring, and safety Brad Ware is solid.

Although it hasn't been the type of spring Bowden would have preferred, he is hoping for a better fall. That could happen, but the Tigers must deal with a strong schedule that features Virginia in the opener, followed by Ole Miss, LSU, Tennessee, Mississippi State, and Florida. After Louisiana Tech, Arkansas, and Central Florida, Auburn ends the year against Georgia and Alabama.

OLE MISS

Here's what's missing from the Rebels' offense of a year ago: 3,529 yards from two players, quarterback Stewart Patridge (2,667 yards in the air) and running back John Avery (862 yards on the ground). Yet just as he figured out the riddle of recruiting with a limited number of scholarships during Ole Miss's NCAA sanctions, head coach Tommy Tuberville has some answers: quarterback Romaro Miller and running back Deuce McAllister. Toss in redshirt back Joe Gunn and the Rebels' reworked offense should still have plenty of punch.

Center Matt Luke is recovering from knee surgery but should be ready this

fall. Tight end Rufus French (the leading receiver), tackle Todd Wade, guard Terrence Metcalf, and wideout Cory Peterson add experience to an offense that features six returning starters.

Ole Miss also comes back with something else: confidence. That was supplied by last year's 8-4 record (including a victory over LSU and a Motor City Bowl victory over Marshall and Randy Moss). The defense is expected to be just as testy as

in recent seasons. Tackle Derrick Burgess, who sat out spring drills after a knee injury, earned Freshman All-America honors. He rejoins Michael Boone up front. Ronnie Heard, Timothy Strickland, and Gary Thigpen return in the secondary. The greatest loss in the past year comes at linebacker, where all three regulars are gone, meaning some inexperienced players must step up.

Perhaps the key returnee is Tuberville, who was a candidate at a couple of schools, especially Arkansas, but decided to remain with the Rebels.

The schedule is kind to the Rebels, who generally have time off between key games, with the exception of the final two games against Georgia and Mississippi State.

ALABAMA

Last season, Alabama had a first-year coach (Mike Dubose), two senior quarterbacks (Freddie Kitchens and Lance Tucker), and three talented running backs (Dennis Riddle, Curtis Alexander, and Shaun Alexander). Dubose returns, but Kitchens and Tucker are gone, leaving the Tide desperately searching for an effective starting quarterback. And there will be no debate about the team's best running back this year: Shaun Alexander is the only one of the trio left.

Last season was the first that Alaba-

Rufus French, Ole Miss



ma failed to win a game on campus, and its 4-7 finish was a huge disappointment. The bright spot shows up this fall, when Dubose's recruiting class arrives, bringing with it not just the hope of a brighter future, but hope for a brighter present as well. The class includes Tyler Watts, the player many expect will unseat Andrew Zow or John David Phillips for the starting quarterback role before the end of the season. It also includes defensive lineman Mario Monds, safety Miguel Merritt, wide receiver Freddie Milons, and end/linebacker Canary Knight.

New offensive coordinator Neil Callaway knows the Crimson Tide must be more productive and less predictable and he'll look to new quarterbacks coach Charlie Stubbs for help in that area. Stubbs will have to find the right person to direct the offense.

The next problem—Callaway's problem as offensive line coach—is to find protection for whomever gets the job. Chris Samuels and Paul Hogan are the only returning starters. The receiving corps should be better, perhaps even featuring an occasional visit from defensive back Fernando Bryant, who has expressed an interest in playing offense and defense.

Defensively, Bryant leads the way and is joined by sophomore linebacker Travis Carroll. Kenny Smith, Chris Hood, and Chris Horne add to Bama's strength on the unit. Again, incoming players have a chance to earn meaningful playing time.

Alabama opens against BYU and will also face Florida, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Southern Miss, LSU, and Auburn. The Tide needs contributions from its newcomers if it is to improve.

MISSISSIPPI STATE

Mississippi State has been erratic the past few seasons. There have been plenty of talented players on the roster, yet the record hasn't always reflected that. The Dogs were 7-4 overall last year (4-4 in SEC), their first winning mark since 1994.

This is another mystery team with another mystery future. With seven starters back on offense but only four on defense, there are questions to be answered. Matt Wyatt is expected to start at quarterback, but he's been inconsistent and is being pushed by redshirt freshman Wayne Madkin. James Johnson is a fine power runner and most of the Dogs' line will be back to help create running room for him. The group of wide receivers is also experienced.



Chris Hood, Alabama

The story is different on defense, where every starter on the line is gone. Yet that may be misleading because MSU's second-team front saw extensive playing time a year ago. The kicking game is solid with the return of punter Jeff Walker and Brian Hazelwood.

Looking for immediate help, coach Jackie Sherrill once again turned to the quick fix by signing five junior college players, three of whom enrolled in school early enough to take part in spring drills. Defensive tackle Alvin McKinley is expected to play a key role.

That brings us to the schedule, which features six road games, including three in a row (Memphis, Oklahoma State, and South Carolina) following a season-opening home game against Vanderbilt. Also on tap: Auburn, LSU, Kentucky, Alabama, and Ole Miss.

ARKANSAS

Sixth place in the West seems an unlikely place for a team with 20 returning starters, yet that could be the Razorbacks' fate.

New coach Houston Nutt has switched the offense to a basic I-formation and will lean more toward the run than the pass preferred by last season's 4-7 (2-6 in SEC) team.

Clint Stoerner passed for more than

2,300 yards last season, a school record, but he isn't a lock for the starting job this year because of the new focus. Chadd Jones, Grant Sumner, and Jared McBride are in the hunt. Chrys Chukwuma is back, and the line, led by Brandon Burlsworth, is solid. Nutt may have the services of running back Madre Hill, who because of knee surgeries has not played since the 1995 SEC championship game. Marvin Caston may move from linebacker to full-back to aid the running attack.

Nutt will have the services of defensive players C.J. McLain and Bryan Smith, who were tossed off the team by Ford but welcomed back after a vote by senior players. A new eight-man front has been installed to put immediate pressure on opponents. Nose guard Melvin Bradley is now a tackle. It's all part of the plan, mixing some new with the not-so-old. Zac Painter, Quenton Caver, and Bradley lead the way on a unit that finished 10th in the SEC in total defense a year ago.

The schedule also has its positives and negatives. The Razorbacks begin with four consecutive home games (Southwestern Louisiana, SMU, Alabama, and Kentucky), but five of the next six are on the road, including visits to Auburn, Tennessee, and Mississippi State. The final game of the year comes against LSU. ■

WAC

Colorado State remains the class of the troubled conference.

BY LOREN JORGENSEN

SALT LAKE CITY DESERET NEWS

For a league ever biting, scratching, and clawing for national respect, 1997 wasn't a banner year for the WAC. Its attempt at getting an automatic berth in the alliance bowls was shot down, but some concessions were made so that a repeat of 1996 won't happen. That year, fifth-ranked BYU was passed over by the alliance for a pair of lower-ranked at-large teams.

In a deal that was a compromise on both sides, the WAC champion will now be included in an alliance bowl if it finishes the regular season with a national ranking of sixth or higher. The league received another ego-deflating blow this spring. The Tucson-based Insight.com Bowl (formerly the Copper Bowl), which had a long history with the WAC, decided to align itself with the Big East this season.

The WAC, in its second season as a 16-team conference, suffered growing pains. Only Colorado State finished in the top 25 (No. 17—nowhere near alliance range). And the WAC was roughed up by rival leagues in the West, going 1-10 against the Pac-10 and 2-7 vs. the Big 12.

The second WAC championship game was a bust compared with the inaugural event. It was a sold-out, ABC-TV ratings success in 1996, when BYU and Wyoming played in an overtime thriller. Last season, however, the Silver Bowl game in Las Vegas was only half filled for the Colorado State-New Mexico title tilt won by the Rams in lopsided fashion.

The lineup in the WAC has been altered this year, with four teams in the Mountain Division trading places with four teams in the Pacific Division. The conference champion will go to either the Cotton or Holiday Bowl if it does not qualify for the alliance. Beyond that, there are very few postseason opportunities remaining for the other 15 WAC schools.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Graham Leigh,
QB, New Mexico

DEFENSE:

Nate Kvamme,
LB, Colorado State

NEWCOMER:

Bobby Sabelhaus,
QB, San Jose State

GAMES TO WATCH

Colorado State vs.
Colorado (Denver),
September 5

Colorado State at
Air Force,
September 17

Brigham Young at
Utah,
November 21

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

COLORADO STATE

The Rams are the league favorite this year despite the loss of a majority of the offensive starters from last year's 11-2 team, including quarterback Moses Moreno, a Chicago Bears' draft pick. But Sonny Lubick has built such a quality program over the past five years in Fort Collins that the Rams, like BYU, will always be pegged as one of the teams to beat in the league.

The Rams return nine starters from a defense that was the seventh-stingiest in the nation at giving up points (14.9 per game). The unit is led by senior linebacker Nate Kvamme, who had 110 tackles, three interceptions, and four fumble recoveries, and senior safety Myron Terry, who picked off six passes.

The keys to the offense will be turned over to a fifth-year senior who has never started a college

game: quarterback Ryan Eslinger. His biggest claim to fame came on a 23-yard touchdown run on a fake field-goal attempt during CSU's Holiday Bowl victory over Missouri. Eslinger has a pair of outstanding backs to hand the ball to. Senior Damon Washington rushed for 1,112 yards—one more yard than junior Kevin McDougal had. No other WAC team can boast such a potent 1-2 running punch. They were able to knock off big ground gains behind holes opened up by all-WAC guard Anthony Cesario and center Mike Newell, who return for their senior year.

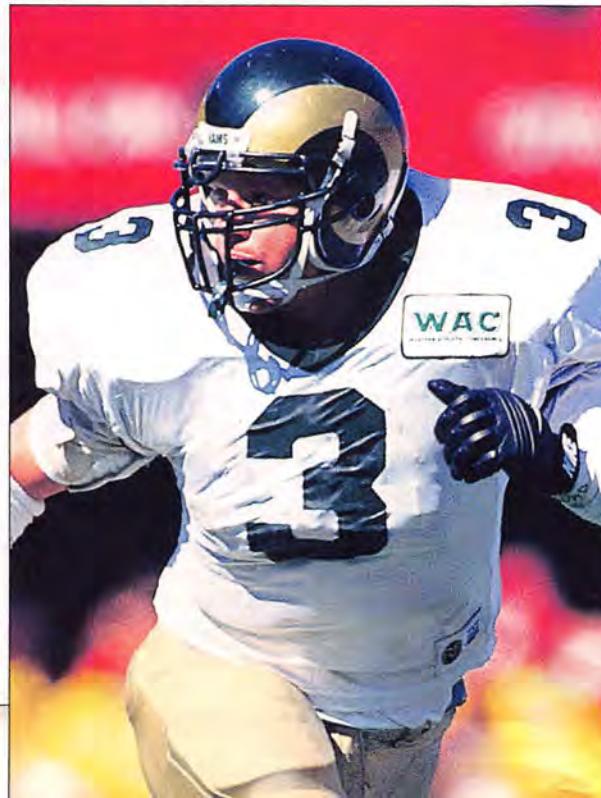
The Rams enter the season having won nine games in a row, but they still have payback due to in-state rivals. Their two losses came at the hands of Colorado and Air Force.

AIR FORCE

It makes sense that this military academy believes in a strong defense. Fisher DeBerry's troops won their first seven games and posted an impressive 10-3 record thanks primarily to the WAC's toughest defense. The Falcons gave up just 12.4 points per game and led the league in total defense and scoring defense. They even shut out eventual league champion Colorado State and allowed a grand total of seven points to rivals Army and Navy.

Unfortunately for DeBerry, just four defensive starters are back from the team that brought the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy back to Air Force. Tim Curry, a senior cornerback who picked off five passes last year, is one of the top returnees. Curry scored three touchdowns and blocked five kicks last fall. Lineman Bryce Fisher, who had 63 tackles, is back for his senior year. The Falcons will need

Nate Kvamme, Colorado State



to replace their linebackers, including team leader Chris Gizzi.

The offensive line is also a major concern. Only one starter, all-WAC guard Frank Mindrup, returns. The good news is that quarterback Blane Morgan, who replaced his brother Beau a year ago, will again be there to run the option. He threw for 975 yards last season and rushed for 565. Rejoining him on the nation's No. 9 rushing attack are fullback Charles "Spanky" Gilliam (741 yards) and half-back Jemal Singleton (429). The Falcons' top wide receivers, Dylan Newman and Matt Farmer, also return.

RICE

Coach Ken Hatfield has pumped new life into the Rice football program. The logical next step would be getting the Owls to a bowl game. Rice is coming off consecutive 7-4 records—their best back-to-back years since 1960-61. Fans in Houston seem to be taking notice. Last season saw the best average home attendance (35,509) since 1972.

The Owls had the No. 2 rushing attack in the nation a year ago, averaging 332.7 yards per game. Star quarterback Chad Nelson is gone, but with running back Michael Perry returning, the Owls should remain potent. Perry led the league in rushing (1,034 yards) and all-purpose yards (1,784). Rice also returns guard Charles Torello, who averaged four pancake blocks per game. Junior quarterback Jeremy Bates, Nelson's understudy, ran for 121 yards in limited action.

Rice returns nine regulars on the defensive side. Hatfield is hoping the experience translates into better results, however. The Owls were in the bottom half of the WAC in scoring defense, giving up an average of nearly 26 points per game. Senior LaDoughyous McCalla is a big-play cornerback. He was named WAC player of the week three times last fall, twice for making game-saving interceptions and once for returning a punt 84 yards for a touchdown. Senior linebacker Rashad Reynolds is the team's leading tackler.

WYOMING

Second-year coach Dana Dimel has high hopes for the Cowboys, who return their top rusher, passer, receiver, and tackler from last year's 7-6 team. Dimel, an ex-quarterback, is especially excited to see what sophomore quarterback Jay Stoner has in store. Stoner passed

for 1,890 yards last fall, but he had more interceptions (10) than TD passes (8). Still, Dimel believes Stoner is as good as any quarterback in the league.

Stoner's primary receiver should again be Wendell Montgomery, who caught 58 passes for 905 yards. Senior Marques Brigham, who rushed for a team-best 696 yards, is also back. The Cowboys' second-leading rusher, Mike Jenkins, will not return, however. He transferred to Arkansas. The offensive line should be a strength, led by guard Jeff Smith, who some say is the fiercest lineman at Wyoming since Conrad Dobler. The Cowboys will need to cut down on their offensive mistakes if they hope to contend for a league title. They turned the ball over 35 times (19 fumbles, 16 interceptions).

Linebacker Brian Brown is the team leader on the defensive side. He had 136 tackles and has started 25 consecutive games for the Cowboys. Junior cornerback Robbie Duncan is a star in the making, while sophomore nose guard Jeff Boyle has bulked up 30 pounds.

The Cowboys also have one of the nation's top punters in Aron Langley. He averaged 45.2 yards per boot, fifth-best in the country.

SOUTHERN METHODIST

Iast year the Mustangs posted their first winning record (6-5) since 1986—the last season before an NCAA death-penalty. With eight offensive starters returning, SMU coach Mike Cavan is looking for an even better finish in 1998.

The Mustangs like to run the ball, and toward that end they have Kelsey Adams as a go-to guy. Adams had a brilliant half-season, rushing for 660 yards and nine touchdowns in the last six



Michael Perry, Rice

games. He ran for 100-plus yards in five straight contests and scored four touchdowns against Tulsa. Adams sat out spring drills with an ankle injury, however, giving junior Rodnick Phillips a chance to shine. The combination of Adams and Phillips should be one of the best in the league.

Chris Sanders split time at quarterback last year, passing for 678 yards and six touchdowns. It looks to be his job alone this time. He has recovered from a broken ankle suffered in a snowboarding accident during Christmas break. His line returns virtually intact. The Mustangs also have one of the league's top place-kickers in sophomore Roy Rios. He made 10 consecutive field goals, tying a school record,

ALL-WAC TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Graham Leigh	SR	New Mexico
RB	Damon Washington	SR	Colorado State
RB	Michael Perry	SR	Rice
WR	Damon Savage	JR	Tulsa
WR	Damon Williams	SR	UNLV
TE	Sam Mineo	SR	UNLV
OL	Frank Mindrup	SR	Air Force
OL	Anthony Cesario	SR	Colorado State
OL	John Tait	JR	BYU
OL	Charles Torello	SR	Rice
OL	Nathan Sybrowsky	SR	Utah
PK	Jeff Hanna	SO	Fresno State

DEFENSE

DL	Luke Johnson	JR	SMU
DL	Pene Talamaiavao	SR	Utah
DL	Talance Sawyer	SR	UNLV
DL	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila	JR	San Diego State
LB	Phil Glover	SR	Utah
LB	Nate Kvamme	SR	Colorado State
LB	Brian Brown	SR	Wyoming
DB	Lyle West	SR	San Jose State
DB	Tim Curry	SR	Air Force
DB	Rico Curtis	JR	San Diego State
DB	LaDoughyous McCalla	SR	Rice
P	Chad Shroud	JR	Hawaii

and booted a 52-yarder against Wyoming.

End Luke Johnson and cornerback Jacoby Rhinehart are the team's top defensive players. Johnson, a first-team all-WAC selection, led SMU linemen with 87 tackles and had 10 sacks. Rhinehart, who picked off four passes last fall, may expand his horizons this season. He saw some time at wide receiver during spring practice.

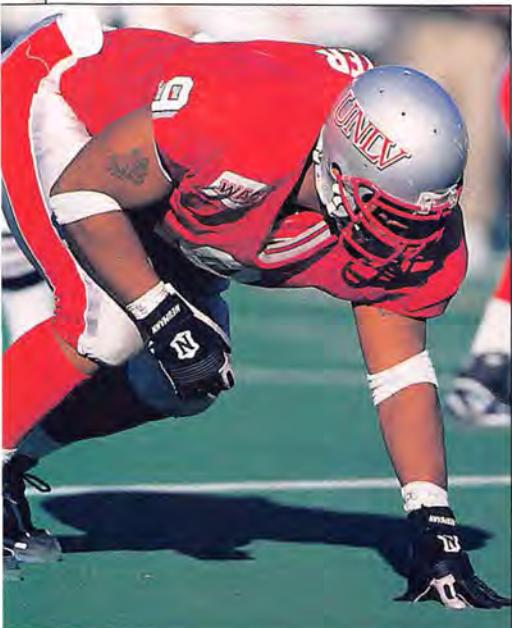
UNLV

Jon Denton has the ability to be a star. He can also frustrate a coach. Just ask coach Jeff Horton. Denton, as a sophomore last season, threw for 2,586 yards and 18 touchdowns. That was despite sitting out two games for "violation of team rules." As a freshman he threw for 3,591 yards and 25 scores—setting 10 NCAA records in the process. Denton sat out practices this spring for what UNLV reported as another "violation of team rules." He is expected to be around and to post huge numbers again this fall, however.

One of Denton's top targets remains Damon Williams, the Rebels' career leader with 156 catches in three years. Carlos Baker, who caught 32 passes for 428 yards last season, also returns.

The Rebels feel they will have some depth in the trenches. When Horton took over the program in 1994, he had only 55 players on scholarship, and most of those were seniors. The Rebels now have over

Talance Sawyer, UNLV



80 scholarship players and a legitimate senior class. They return nine starters on each side of the ball. Guard Mike Reily and tight end Sam Mineo, who has started 23 straight games, anchor the offensive line. Across the line, Talance Sawyer, UNLV's first first-team all-WAC defensive player, had seven sacks and led the league with 18 tackles for loss.

The Rebels were only 3-8 a year ago, but with a few breaks they could have been above .500. They lost two games in overtime (to San Diego State and San Jose State) and one to Air Force (by a point) in the final minute.

TULSA

The Golden Hurricane should be improved defensively this year—which isn't saying much. Tulsa was last in the nation against the run and next to last in total defense. They were also last in the WAC in pass defense and scoring defense. They gave up nearly 39 points per game.

So coach Dave Radar went the junior college route to bulk up the unit. Two of the transfers, end Andy Taylor and free safety Gavin Engle, practiced in the spring and are already at the top of the depth chart. Seven more JC defenders will show up in the fall. Meanwhile, the three freshmen (Ashon Farley, Phillip Abode, and Leon Walker) who started at linebacker last year have some experience under their belts.

Tulsa's offense should be potent. There is plenty of talent in the skill positions. The Hurricane had a 2,000-yard passer (John Fitzgerald), a 1,000-yard receiver (Damon Savage), and a 1,000-yard rusher (Charlie Higgins) last fall. All three are back. Fitzgerald, a senior, completed 54.3 percent of his passes and was third in the WAC in total offense. He threw only nine touchdown passes with 13 interceptions, however. Savage, a junior, caught 66 passes for 1,084 yards with six scores, averaging 98.5 yards per game. Higgins, a junior, averaged 5.2 yards per carry in racking up 1,043 yards. Senior tailback Reggie Williams, who led the team in rushing as a freshman and sophomore, is back, as is receiver Wes Caswell, a 1996 all-WAC player who sat out last season with a knee injury.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

Dennis Franchione, the defending WAC Mountain Division coach of the year for leading New Mexico to



Damon Savage, Tulsa

its first bowl game in more than three decades, has his work cut out for him in his first year with the Horned Frogs. TCU was 0-10 overall and 0-7 in the WAC before upsetting SMU in the season finale in 1997. It took Franchione six years to mold the Lobos into a WAC division champion, and it may be an equally time-consuming process in Fort Worth. The Frogs ranked last in the WAC in total offense last fall.

Junior Patrick Batteaux was TCU's top receiver, with 27 catches for 396 yards. This year, however, he's the favorite to be the one throwing, not receiving, the passes. Batteaux, a high school quarterback and a member of Billy Tubbs's Mountain Division basketball team, has been moved to quarterback. He started the spring at No. 4 on the depth chart, but quickly moved up to the top spot by the end of spring drills. Franchione likes to throw the ball, but he also uses the option on occasion. Jeff Dover and Derek Canine, who split time at quarterback last season, don't have the running ability Batteaux has.

Basil Mitchell and LaDainian Tomlinson, who combined to run for 1,257 yards and nine scores, are back. The Frogs have a double threat in Royce Huffman, who not only punts the ball but is also the team's punt returner.

The defense is led by sophomore end Aaron Schobel (7 sacks) and senior strong safety Eric Anderson.

PACIFIC DIVISION

BRIGHAM YOUNG

Going from fifth place in the nation with an NCAA-record 14 victories in 1996 to fifth place in their WAC division last year didn't sit well in Provo. The Cougars (6-5, 4-4 in WAC) missed a bowl bid for the second time in three years—which was also only the second time in 20 years. LaVell Edwards-coached teams don't stay down for long. Expect the Cougars to be back at or near the top of the WAC once again this fall.

One reason for optimism is the return of Ronney Jenkins, a speedy sophomore who redshirted last year while sitting out due to unspecified violations of BYU's strict honor code. Jenkins, who once rushed for a record 619 yards in a single high school game, was the WAC freshman of the year in '96 when he ran for 733 yards and 11 touchdowns and caught 14 passes for three more scores.

Kevin Feterick passed for 1,767 yards and 11 touchdowns during an injury-plagued sophomore year. He is healthy and should be ready to join the elite group of star QBs that Edwards has had during his 26-year reign. Sophomore Drew Miller could push for playing time. The line features all-WAC tackle John Tait (6-7, 305) and Joe Hau'oli Wong (6-6, 310), who will move from guard to tackle. Margin Hooks and Aaron Roderick are the top receivers.

The defense returns eight regulars, led by linebackers Brad Martin and Rob Morris. The line of Ed Kehl, Daren Yancey, Issiah Magalei, and Byron Frisch is back intact.

The Cougars' non-league schedule may be their most ambitious ever. They open at Alabama, host Arizona State, then travel to Washington before starting WAC competition.

UTAH

Ute fans are excited about the future because of two words: Darnell Arceneaux. The athletic Hawaiian quarterback started the final two games last season as a freshman, leading Utah to victories over Rice and BYU. He's an impressive scrambler with a strong, if not always accurate, arm. He'll enter the fall as the man to beat, although senior Jonathan Crosswhite, who started the first nine games last year and threw for 1,588 yards, is still around.

The quarterbacks no longer have Kevin Dyson, the school's all-time leading receiver, who moved on to the NFL.

Daniel Jones averaged 117.5 yards per game before suffering a severe ankle sprain that hobbled him much of the year. He finished with 41 catches for 626 yards and five TDs. The top running backs for the past three years, Juan Johnson and Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, are gone. Redshirt Omar Bacon will have to assume much of the rushing load for coach Ron McBride's team. The line should be much improved after an injury-plagued season. Four starters return, led by senior Nathan Sybrowsky, and seven redshirts provide depth.

The defense is loaded with 10 players with starting experience, including three all-WAC honorees: linebacker Phil Glover, tackle Pene Talamaivao, and back Robert Love. Talamaivao sat out spring drills after having foot surgery, but he should be ready to go during the fall.

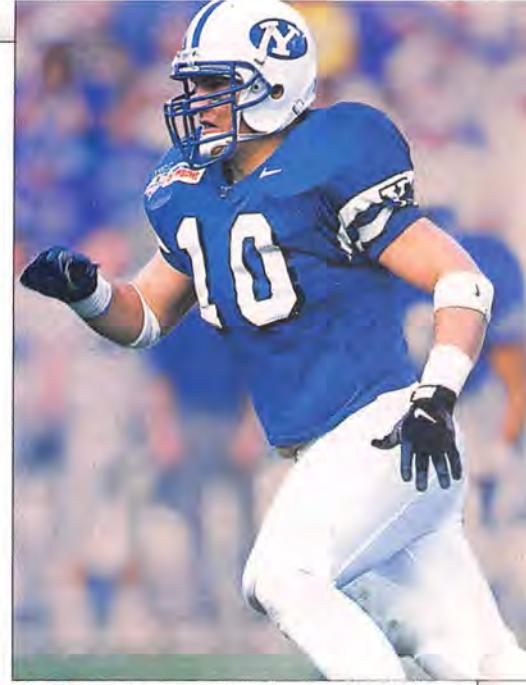
The Utes went 6-5 last year (5-3 in the WAC). They are hoping to be back in a bowl game and to finish .500 or better for the eighth year in a row—Utah's longest stretch without a losing season in more than 50 years.

FRESNO STATE

Pat Hill produced a 6-6 record (5-3 in WAC) in his rookie campaign as head coach—the school's first non-losing season since 1993. Junior quarterback Billy Volek was a pleasant surprise, completing 56 percent of his passes for 1,853 yards and 17 touchdowns with only six interceptions. He had one stretch in which he threw 204 consecutive passes without an interception.

One of Volek's top targets should be speedy redshirt freshman Atnaf Harris, who was academically ineligible last fall. Another will be do-everything senior running back Jaime Kimbrough, who caught a team-high 36 passes for 368

Graham Leigh, New Mexico



Brad Martin, Brigham Young

yards. With 1,000-yard gainer Michael Pittman gone, Kimbrough will get more rushing attempts. He ran for 484 yards a year ago, averaging 5.1 per carry.

Senior punter Jeff Roberts carries a 42.6-yard career average, the best in school history. Jeff Hanna made 12 of his final 14 field goals, including a 51-yarder to lift the Bulldogs to a 20-17 victory over then-unbeaten Air Force.

A.J. Gass, Fresno's top defensive player, is gone, but linebacker Tim Skipper returns after a big rookie year. He led all WAC freshmen with 117 tackles. Other stalwarts on the defensive side are senior safeties Cory Hall and Efrain Guizar.

NEW MEXICO

When the Lobos played in the Insight.com Bowl last season, it meant that all 10 of the pre-expansion league members had been bowling at least once over a 10-year span. But the Lobos, one of the best stories of the college football season, ended on a losing streak. After winning the Mountain Division title, they lost to Colorado State in the WAC title game. Then they lost to Arizona in the bowl game. Then they lost their coach, Dennis Franchione, to TCU.

New coach Rocky Long, a former star QB for the Lobos (1969-71) and the defensive coordinator at UCLA last year, isn't exactly starting from scratch. He has quarterback Graham Leigh, the Mountain Division offensive player of the year. Still, it may take time for the Lobos to get used to a complicated new offense.

Leigh completed 60 percent of his passes for 2,318 yards and 24 touch-

WAC

downs last fall. He also was the team's leading rusher (528 yards). Running back Lennox Gordon (494 yards) returns for his senior year. The leading receiver returning is Kawika Ordenstein (20 catches), while senior guard Chris Wallace anchors an experienced line.

The Lobos lost eight defensive regulars, including five from the secondary. Top returnees include end Ryan Taylor, who tied for the league high with 12 sacks, and linebacker Brian Urlacher, who was second on the team in tackles.

SAN DIEGO STATE

Ted Tollner's Aztecs have the fewest returning starters of any of the 16 WAC teams. One standout who is back is defensive end Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, who was the only sophomore position player to make all-WAC first team. He tied for the league lead with 12 sacks and finished with 82 tackles. Junior strong safety Rico Curtis was a second-team all-WAC selection after making 112 tackles.

Spencer Brinton started the final five games at quarterback as a true freshman. But the 6-5 lefty's numbers weren't great. He completed only 45 percent of his passes and had more interceptions (10) than touchdowns (6). Still, the job appears to be Brinton's to lose. Waiting in the wings is sophomore transfer Brian Russell, who was a part-time starter at Penn in 1996.

SDSU's running game should be in good shape with junior Jonas Lewis, who was fourth in the league last season with 1,021 yards. He started just seven games, averaging 141.7 yards and going for 253

Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, San Diego State

against Fresno State. With first-round draft pick Kyle Turley gone, the Aztec's top offensive lineman is versatile junior Mike Malano. He started the first seven games of the year at guard before moving to center for the final five.

SAN JOSE STATE

When the Spartans open the season at Stanford on September 5, chances are they will start a quarterback with no college experience. Bobby Sabelhaus, a one-time prep phenom in Maryland who took a circuitous route to San Jose, looks like he will be the man behind center for second-year coach Dave Baldwin.

Sabelhaus signed out of high school with Florida, but left after a season to go to Pierce College in Los Angeles, where he did not play. He then went to West Virginia, but did not last long. So it was off to San Jose, where he will be a junior. Sabelhaus's main competition is Brian Vye, who started four games last fall and played in 10 (throwing for 1,019 yards and 5 TDs).

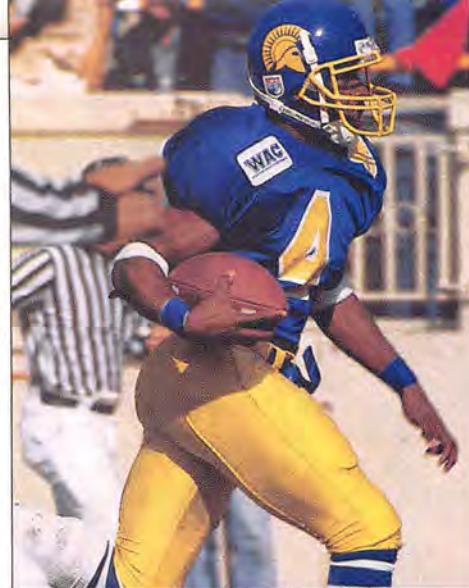
No matter who the quarterback is, he'll have a fine wide receiver in Oliver Newell, who caught 58 passes for 942 yards and 11 touchdowns. Eric Ruhle, another target, returns after sitting out all but the season opener with an injury. James Hodges is back after an injury-shortened campaign in which he rushed for 237 yards in three games.

The Spartans could be a sleeper in the division. After losing their first five games, they finished 4-2 in the final six, including a victory over Air Force. They have eight returning regulars on defense, including Lyle West, a first-team all-WAC free safety, and strong safety K.J. Agu.

UTEP

The Miners do not have a rich football tradition. In fact, their 4-7 record (3-5 in WAC) was actually considered a success. It tied for their third-best season in the last 25 years. With such modest expectations, head coach Charlie Bailey could have another "successful" campaign.

Senior John Rayborn threw for 640 yards last year. Sophomore Rocky Perez (728 yards) is right behind him. The top three rushers are back as well: Elzie Johnson (526 yards), Joseph Polk (471), and Paul Smith (432). Joining them is former defensive back Javier Sanchez. Jimmy



Oliver Newell, San Jose State

Carpenter, who caught 47 passes for 767 yards, is the leading receiver.

The secondary is the biggest question mark, and that is not a good sign in the WAC. The Miners had a solid defensive backfield last fall, but they lost both safeties to graduation and cornerback Michael Hicks declared early for the NFL draft. That leaves senior corner David Cotchery as the only returning starter. The line features second-team all-WAC nose tackle Jason Smith and Brian Young, who had 76 tackles a year ago.

HAWAII

Coach Fred vonAppen's Rainbow Warriors will have a new look in more ways than one. Their new offensive coordinator, Don Lindsay (the school's fifth in as many years), has modified the pro-style attack for a more run-oriented veer-option offense similar to what Nebraska runs.

The renewed emphasis on the run should be good news to sophomore Charles Tharp, who rushed for 796 yards in becoming the Pacific Division's freshman of the year. He was also the team's leading receiver (42 catches for 435 yards). Quarterback Josh Skinner will get competition this fall from transfers Dan Robinson, Tom Racine, and Fred Salanoa.

The defense is led by linebacker Stephen Gonzales, who played in only three games last season as a senior. He was granted a medical hardship. He had 77 tackles in 1996. Punter Chad Shroud led the WAC with a 46.1-yard average, fifth-best in the country. It's probably a good thing the Rainbows have a fine punter, however, since they may need him a great deal as they adjust to their new offense.



I-A INDEPENDENTS

The talent level at Notre Dame is not as high as the expectations.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Daunte Culpepper,
QB, Central Florida

DEFENSE:

Kory Minor,
LB, Notre Dame

NEWCOMER:

Carlos Pierre-
Antoine,
LB, Notre Dame

GAMES TO WATCH

Notre Dame
at Michigan,
September 5

Central Florida
at Louisiana Tech,
September 5

Central Florida
at Auburn,
November 7

Army at Navy,
December 5

NOTRE DAME

At Notre Dame, they file seasons under two categories: national championships and disappointments. There are a few reasons to think Bob Davie's second year as coach will be anything but disappointing—unless fleet new quarterback Jarious Jackson can live up to comparisons with Tony Rice, who led the Irish to No. 1 a decade ago.

With dependable tailback Autry Denson and wideouts Malcolm Johnson and Bobby Brown (the most prolific receiving tandem in school history), Jackson won't have to do it alone. But he will need a more creative scheme by offensive coordinator Jim Colletto, who took heat last year for a plodding attack.

The defense is strongest at linebacker, with All-America candidate Kory Minor. Watch for freshman Carlos Pierre-Antoine. Senior strong safety Benny Guilbeaux has led the team in interceptions in each of the last two seasons. But Notre Dame needs to be tougher up front, where opponents romped for 185 yards a game on the ground.

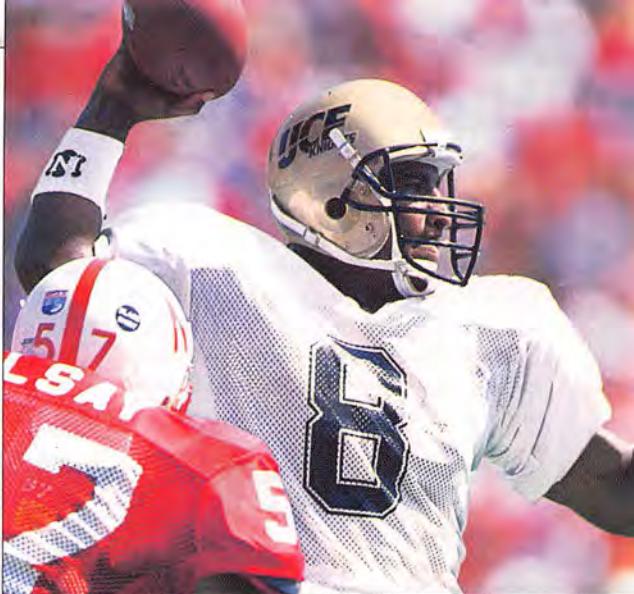
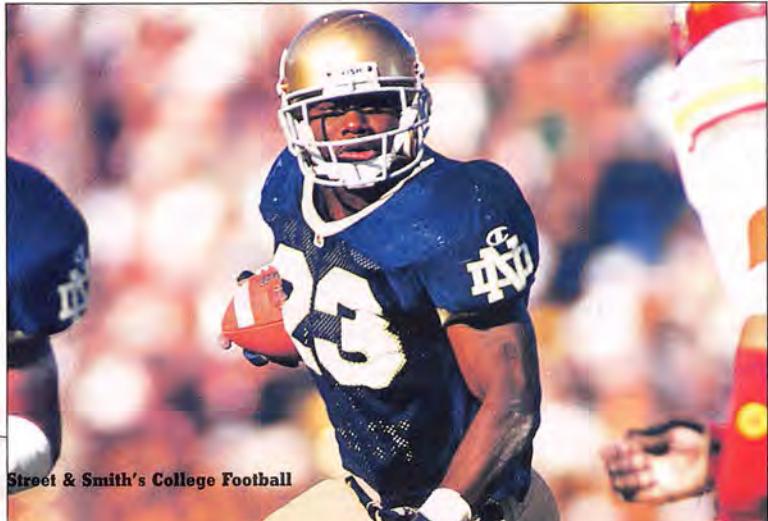
Davie's honeymoon lasted precisely one week, until Notre Dame lost to Purdue in his second game. By the time the Fighting Irish won again, it was October 11. But Davie guided them to six victories in the last seven weeks, a spurt that led to a berth (and a humiliating loss to LSU) in the Independence Bowl.

The strong finish only served to raise expectations for 1998. Unfortunately, the talent level isn't nearly as high as those expectations. Notre Dame had its poorest showing in the NFL draft in years, a testament to the thin roster Davie inherited from Lou Holtz.

Davie is under pressure to get to a big-bucks bowl alliance game, but the schedule is stacked against him. Notre Dame opens at home against Michigan, the first of four games in five weeks against 1997 bowl teams.

by Andy Bagnato

Autry Denson, Notre Dame



Daunte Culpepper, Central Florida

LOUISIANA TECH

The skill players in one of the nation's most explosive offenses return, and the defense should be better than last year's. That's good news for Gary Crowton's quest to keep the momentum going from last year's 9-2 finish. He's 15-7 over two seasons and believes this is his best team yet.

Junior quarterback Tim Rattay returns to lead an offense that ranked third nationally in passing (360.5 yards) and total offense (496 yards) per game. He threw for 3,881 yards with 34 touchdowns last fall. Senior receiver Troy Edwards pulled down 102 catches for 1,707 yards and 13 TDs. Junior Bobby Ray Tell is also back after running for 800 yards.

There should be plenty of firepower, providing a rebuilt offensive line comes together quickly. Junior guard Joe Chustz is the only returning starter.

Defensively, eight players with starting experience are back. Linebacker Selu Alofipo, nose guard Otis Pitts, and safety Charles Bowman lead the way.

by Randall Mell

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Despite off-season upheaval that saw the resignation of coach Gene McDowell and the promotion of offensive coordinator Mike Kruczek as interim coach, Central Florida returns the nucleus of a team capable of its first winning record since moving to Division I-A three years ago.

Quarterback Daunte Culpepper, who seemed poised to leap to the NFL after a record-breaking junior season, is among 10 offensive starters back. His 15 school records and more than 3,000 yards passing last fall came against some topnotch competition. He passed for 318 yards in nearly upsetting Nebraska at Lincoln. Joe Namath called Culpepper's footwork "the best I've seen since [Dan] Marino."

Culpepper will have lots of help, and with an easier schedule this fall, the Golden Knights are even thinking about a bowl bid. Seniors Siah Burley (77 catches for 1,106 yards) and Mark Nonsant are top targets. The backfield is solid with senior tailback

I-A INDEPENDENTS

Mike Grant (565 yards) and promising sophomore Dwight Collins. The line features senior Cornell Green.

The biggest questions the Golden Knights face are on defense, where six standout players must be replaced. UCF needs an inexperienced front to develop quickly and some newcomers in the secondary to step forward. Senior weakside linebacker Mike Palmer and senior cornerback Reginald Doster lead the way.

Senior Fred Waczewski hit 13 of 16 field goals last season. *by Randall Mell*

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

The Indians (5-7) hope to pick up where they left off after winning three of their final four games. Fifth-year coach Ed Zaunbrecher is bidding to put together the first winning season in the school's fifth in I-A.

Eight starters return on offense, but the Indians must restock the backfield. Redshirt freshman Andre Vige will compete with little-used sophomores Jason Grein and Michael Davis. Juniors Richard Love and Kond Allen will try to fill the shoes of Marquis Williams, who ran for nearly 1,000 yards. Senior Marty Booker caught 44 passes while battling injuries. Senior Tony Akins and junior Derrick Bridges are potential big-play receivers. Senior James Landers and junior Shane Pittard anchor the line.

The Indians will miss end Steve Foley, who set a school record with a national-high 18.5 sacks last fall. Senior linebacker Sirl Wright is a force in the middle. Corner Pat Dennis earned freshman All-America honors. Senior safeties Brian Taylor, who led the team in tackles, and Dee Jefferson make the secondary a strength. *by Randall Mell*

UAB

UAB begins its third season in Division I-A with its stiffest test since jumping up in class: The Blazers meet Nebraska in Lincoln. With 15 starters back, coach Watson Brown will be trying to improve upon last year's 5-6 mark and register the team's first winning record since moving to I-A.

Look for Lee Jolly to run a more wide-open offense. He threw for a freshman-record 1,530 yards last fall. Junior tailback Lucious Foster ran for a team-leading 737 yards. The offense will struggle if a youthful line doesn't develop

quickly. Seniors Brian Creel and Melvin Sidney will need help, with sophomore Tim Medders expected to step up.

Junior inside linebacker Brian Smith set the school record for tackles (114) and will anchor a strong front with six rotating seniors, including Curtis Jeter, Pernell Davis, and Sterrick Morgan. Junior cornerback Rodregis Brooks is the only returning regular in a questionable secondary. *by Randall Mell*

NAVY

Only six starters return from a 7-4 team that closed with a four-game winning streak capped by a 39-7 demolition of Army.

Just one defensive starter, senior tackle Jason Snider, is back for coach Charlie Weatherbie. Sophomores Jason McCray and Brad Wimsatt join him up front. Brad Chatlos is the only experienced linebacker after Keith Mier was lost for the season with a knee injury. The secondary also has just one veteran, senior free safety Adam Crecion.

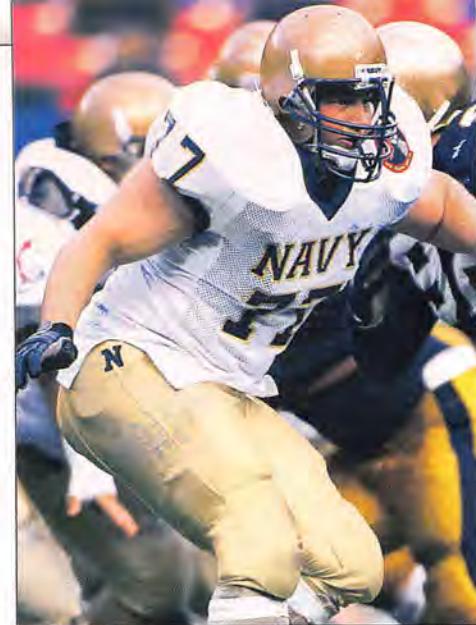
The loss of quarterback Chris McCoy, who accounted for 2,573 yards and 31 TDs, is compounded by the graduation of fullback Tim Canada, slotback Pat McGrew, and wideout LeBron Butts. Steve Holley, who played in six games but threw only two passes last year, steps in at quarterback. He will rely on slotbacks Manny Metcalf and Jason Wolf. Irv Dingle returns at fullback, and seniors Mike Wahle and Blaine Kindler anchor the line.

Tom Vanderhorst made 14 of 16 field goals inside the 40. *by Bill Heller*

ARKANSAS STATE

Despite a 2-9 record, second-year head coach Joe Hollis has Arkansas State going places. After regaining Division I-A status in 1992, the Indians will return to the Big West in 1999. Hollis must continue to improve the offense and plug a leaky defense. Each unit has nine starters returning.

Cleo Lemon had the best single season for a freshman quarterback in school history, throwing for 1,452 yards. He has solid targets in senior Lennie Johnson (46 receptions) and junior Ron Teat, who finished third nationally among tight ends in receptions (30). Leading rusher and kickoff-return specialist Lamont Zachary returns to a backfield which gained only 1,045 yards, the lowest total ever at ASU. Freshman tailback Jonathan Adams is the school's first Parade All-America.



Blaine Kindler, Navy

Senior Todd Frohbieter anchors the line.

Defensively, ASU has nowhere to go but up. It allowed 36 points and 448 yards a game, including 234 on the ground. Senior end Clarence Williams is backed by linebacker Koetter Little and corner Rodney Allen, the leading returning tacklers.

by Les Kovach

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

Nelson Stokley's 12th season was nightmarish. His Ragin' Cajuns were 1-10, and eight of those losses were routs. He saw his defense yield 50 or more points in five games, and he watched his talented son fall with a knee injury in the fourth game.

Twenty starters return. Senior Brandon Stokley, who set NCAA freshman records and was the nation's leading sophomore receiver in '96, missed spring drills rehabilitating from reconstructive knee surgery but is expected back this fall. Junior Barton Folse, senior Brian Soignier, and sophomore Lance Domec are competing at quarterback. Domec threw for a team-high 925 yards and Folse threw for 713. Soignier suffered through an injury-plagued season. Sophomore Darren Brister is back at running back after missing a year with a knee injury. He'll compete with sophomore Elvis Joseph (578 yards) and senior Eric Lindsey (503).

Senior linebacker Chucky Woodall, the top returning tackler, is back on the outside with junior Dwayne Viator returning to the middle. The key to the unit's effectiveness will be its ability to stop the run. The Ragin' Cajuns yielded a staggering 281.5 rushing yards per game in '97. *by Randall Mell*

ATLANTIC 10

Villanova and Delaware remain the teams to beat this fall.

BY CHUCK NEWMAN

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

The Atlantic 10 (formerly Yankee) Conference, in only its second year of formal existence, can claim to be the toughest I-AA league in the country. Consider:

- For the entire season, three of the A-10 teams were in the top 25, with Villanova finishing No. 1 and Delaware No. 3. Northeastern was the third team.
- Three league players were first-team All-America.
- The Atlantic 10 placed two teams into the NCAA playoffs, one of only six conferences that had two representatives.
- Eight league members were in the top 25 at one point.
- Villanova completed its first unbeaten regular season ever. Its coach, Andy Talley, received the prestigious Eddie Robinson Award as I-AA coach of the year. Wildcats wide receiver Brian Finneran won the Walter Payton Award, given to the top I-AA player in the nation.

Hard to believe, but the numbers and achievements may have been even more impressive had injuries not affected several of the Atlantic 10's best or most promising players: Connecticut running back Recolon Jumpp, the 1997 Rookie of the year; Rhode Island quarterback Billy Jack Haskins, a Kentucky transfer; and 1996 all-league quarterback Mike Cook of William & Mary.

Boston University has dropped football, but many of its top players will reinforce the rosters of other league members.

Villanova and Delaware will go into the season as prime targets, but beware of William & Mary and of a loaded Connecticut team.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Chris Boden,
QB, Villanova

DEFENSE:

Steve Kives,
LB, Northeastern

NEWCOMER:

Curtis Keaton,
RB, James Madison

GAMES TO WATCH

Delaware at Villanova,
September 12

New Hampshire at
Maine, September 12

Maine at Connecticut,
September 19

New Hampshire at
William & Mary,
October 24

Delaware at
Connecticut,
November 7

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

CONNECTICUT

The Huskies were a good football team last season. Not great. When you finish 4-4 in your league, there is room for improvement. A two-point overtime loss to Maine cost them at least a piece of the New England division. New Hampshire scored in the final five minutes to keep UConn from the postseason.

Coach Skip Holtz is philosophical about what happened. "It was disappointing, but our players can now see how close we were to being a real good football team," he said.

Which brings us to this season. The Huskies will score. Start with league rookie of the year Recolon Jumpp, who rushed for 815 yards and nine touchdowns in just nine games. Bodyguard fullback Chad Martin also returns, as do three linemen to give time to quarterback Shane Stafford, who threw for 23 touchdowns. Wideout Carl Bond led the league in yards per catch (23.1) and flanker Tory Taylor caught nine touchdown passes.

Stopping opponents will be the problem as three

of the Huskies' starting defensive linemen graduated. Stepping in to help fill the void is Boston U. transfer Khalid Riley, a 270-pound defensive end. Senior linebackers Gooch Adams and Eric Rogers were second and third, respectively, on the team in tackles. The secondary retains three defensive backs, who will be joined by Tennessee-Martin transfer Rob Tritz.

MAINE

Quarterback Mickey Fein was predicted to have a big season. He did. His team didn't quite live up to expectations, however (5-6, 4-4). Maine was expected to be potent on offense. It was, ranking second only to Villanova in passing and third in total offense in the league. The Bears scored 348 points in 11 games.

Need a clue to the six losses? The Bears scored just 106 points in the defeats. And check out the second-worst running game (111.0) in the league. The good news is that the Bears return Fein, who was No. 6 in the NCAA in total offense with 287.9 yards per game, plus 13 other regulars from last fall. Two big-time receivers, John Tennett and Rameek Wright, who combined for 145 catches, are gone, but Drew O'Connor (61 receptions) is back. The big question is the running game, and spring drills produced no immediate answer. Bert Rich, Ben Christopher, and Lamin Sisay, who combined for 739 yards last season, are back. Senior Billy Cole, a former tight end, will move into the backfield.

The defense will surely benefit from the addition of Ufuoma Pela, a standout lineman who transferred from Boston University.

Shane Stafford, Connecticut



ATLANTIC 10

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The beat might not go on for the Wildcats, who have won three of the last four New England Division titles outright. Last year, however, was marred by an 0-3 nonconference mark that led to the team's first losing season since 1982.

Start with two-time all-Atlantic 10 running back Jerry Azumah, who embellished his already gaudy offensive numbers with 1,576 yards rushing, 26 pass receptions, 17 touchdowns, and a 29.3-yard kickoff-return average. Depending on one player could be dangerous, though, since the passing game has been negligible. Junior Matt Cassano threw for 777 yards and eight touchdowns but suffered seven interceptions. Senior Tim Cramsey backs him up. Junior Jermaine Washington caught 25 passes for 336 yards. Tight end Jeff Tripp is also back.

Nine defensive regulars return, headed by second-team all-conference lineman Matt Crispino. The secondary, which accounted for 162 tackles, three sacks, and four interceptions, is back intact. Coach Bill Bowes will have to find a kicking game with the departure of punter/place-kicker Jon Curry.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Minutemen don't fit the category of Team to Watch, but the new coach sure does. Mark Whipple, who in four seasons turned a moribund Brown program from an Ivy League doormat into a team you didn't want to play, is the new man in charge. With him comes the "Whiplash" offense that he built into the Ivy's best.

Whipple left behind a quarterback and a running back who figure to be among the Ivy leaders for two more years. He hopes to lure that type of talent to UMass. Meanwhile, he inherited a team that ranked last in the Atlantic 10 in scoring, last in scoring defense, last in pass defense, next-to-last in total offense, and 10th in pass offense. Still, those were the kind of numbers Whipple faced when he took the job at Brown.

Junior incumbent quarterback Jeff Smith must improve on his 49 completions in 125 attempts and eight interceptions. Watch out for California junior college transfer Todd Bankhead and possibly freshman Kelly Seibert to mount a challenge at the position. If the quarterback can get the ball there, UMass has

capable catchers in wideout Doug Clark (33 catches), who may pursue baseball, and second-team all conference tight end Kerry Taylor (22 catches, team-high 6 TDs). Soph tailback Marcel Shipp (756 yards) will likely see a lot of work.

The defense needs work, although second-team all-league linebacker Khari Samuel (17 tackles for loss) is a start.

RHODE ISLAND

There was the rush of having Kentucky transfer Billy Jack Haskins, who was expected to bring instant offense last fall. He lasted four games before being injured. The Rams went down with him, losing their last five games. There are no great expectations this time. The Rams will have to rely on fundamentals, a strong running game, and defense to move into the first division of the Atlantic 10.

A big year is a must from tailback James Jenkins (1,032 yards and six TDs). Running mate Shyron Sanford also scored six times. There is a quarterback situation to be addressed. Junior Rudy Bulgar and senior Jeff Weaver divided duty a year ago. Karim Gibson is the main target.

Linebacking should be a strong suit, thanks to the return of second-team all-league Miguel Viera, who transferred from Kentucky with Haskins. But the key move is the return of lineman Frank Ferrara, the top pass-rusher, who went down with an injury after only two plays last fall.

The kicking game is one of the league's best with Matt Walker and punter Jason Christopher (42.4-yard average).

MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

VILLANOVA

Coach Andy Talley has big problems off his undefeated team of last season. For example, he has to find time for players who would be starters on different teams. He wants to move Ryan Knight from offense to defense, where Knight figured to be an outstanding player in the first place but shifted in 1997 at the coach's request.

Talley has to decide which players to redshirt in maybe his best recruiting year ever. He has to match the effort of last season, when the Wildcats posted the best record in school history, the most victories (12) in a season, and were ranked No. 1 for six straight weeks.

Now that's trouble—the kind most coaches dream of. And all for a coach who did not name a quarterback until a

week before the season began last fall!

For a start, Talley's choice, junior quarterback Chris Boden, is back with his 281 completions for 3,707 yards and 42 touchdowns. Prime target Brian Finneran and two other receivers who combined for 206 receptions and 29 touchdowns are gone, but watch out for soph Stephen Ward and redshirt freshman Brian Berko-Boateng. Boden may hand the ball off more often, maybe to Boston U. transfer Roger Harriott, who gained 1,333 yards and scored seven touchdowns for the defunct Terrier team. The line will have to be rebuilt.

All but one starter return on defense, led by all-league tackle Jason Tenner, linemate Chris Machovina, linebacker Shaun Lyons, and back Shannon Riley.

DELAWARE

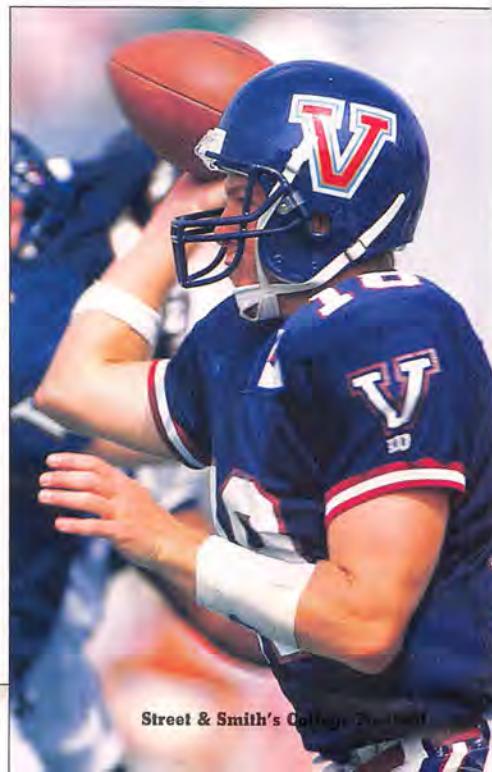
Coach Tubby Raymond shrugged at the question about last season's 12-2 record and venture into the NCAA semifinals.

"Surprised? We had an untested quarterback and a line that I had to go into a Ouija board to figure out," he said. Then he qualified his statement: "I did think our defense was going to be effective."

O.K., Raymond knows his team won't surprise anybody this time. He thinks it will be pretty good. Not that he will come out and say it. "Hey, we thought we were great in 1996 (8-4), and got stung. We had everybody back and didn't play well," he said.

The Hens played well enough to fin-

Chris Boden, Villanova





Eddie Conti, Delaware

ish third nationally last year and have 12 regulars back from a 12-2 playoff team. There have been big losses, especially all-time leading receiver Courtney Batts and All-America linebacker Brian Smith. But there appear to be ample reinforcements. Jet-quick Eddie Conti, who ranks second in school history in receiving yardage, is back from a knee injury. He will provide a deep threat for junior Brian Ginn, the nation's 10th-ranked quarterback, who accounted for 14 touchdowns last fall.

Raymond will find out early just how good his team is. The Hens are at Villanova in the second game of the season.

WILLIAM & MARY

They were almost the unanimous choice to win the league title last season, just as they were in 1996. Then quarterback Mike Cook went down with a knee injury that forced him to miss the majority of the next seven games. Cook's backup then went down. The injuries, along with the surprising success by Villanova and Delaware, relegated coach Jimmye Laycock's Tribe to a 7-4 record and a shocking fourth-place finish in the Mid-Atlantic Division.

That was then. Cook, 14-3 as a starter, is back and will get reacquainted with the dangerous wideout combination of David Conklin and Chris Rosier. Conklin averages over 18 yards per reception and Rosier had 44 catches as a freshman last fall. Cook should get time to throw since three regulars, led by 280-

pound all-league Greg Whirley, return on the line. And he may need it because Alvin Porch, a two-time all-Atlantic 10 tailback has graduated.

The defense has some holes, especially in the secondary, where three conference players have graduated. Laycock also has to replace Brian Shallcross, the Atlantic-10's all-time leader in field goals.

NORTHEASTERN

The Huskies (8-3) are coming off their best season in 34 years and their first back-to-back winning marks in 30 years. While graduation has decimated the offense, coach Barry Gallup says he is optimistic—but maybe for the future. The class that built a foundation for success is gone, the most serious casualties being quarterback Jim Murphy (2,823 yards and 19 TDs) and running back Dave Edmundson (960-8).

A more conservative approach to offense will be employed this fall, and that likely means a lot of work for Boston U. transfer Charles Johnson, a 6-5, 240-pound tight end who will be inserted immediately into a starting spot. Junior Dave Sofran, the top return specialist the last two years, will be one wideout. Sophomore Jason Quinlan will have the first shot at succeeding Murphy. Gallup said Quinlan, with more experience, could be as good as his predecessor.

Northeastern finished second in the Atlantic 10 in overall defense. It lost all-conference lineman Lloyd Nugent and safety Leroy Robinson, but features one of the top linebacking units, led by Steve

Kives and Zach Falconer, who combined for 129 tackles and 3.5 sacks a year ago.

RICHMOND

The Spiders bounced back from a 2-9 disaster in 1996 to 6-5 last season.

As usual, nothing here comes in spectacular fashion and most of the success is the result of defense, which was the league's best last season, allowing just over 262 yards a game.

Richmond must get better numbers when it has the ball. It ranked near the bottom third of the Atlantic 10 in four offensive categories and placed one player, tight end Rahmaan Streeter, on the all-league team. The Spiders need to settle on a quarterback, where senior Matt Shannon and junior Jimmie Miles both saw time a year ago. There are adequate receivers in Dwaune Jones and Muneer Moore, who combined for 79 catches and 1,043 yards. The running game remains the first option, with Jasper Pendergrass and promising sophomore TyRonne Turner getting most of the carries.

As usual for Richmond, defense does not appear to be a problem. Three all-conference players, Marc Megna (14 sacks), Winston October, and Chris Anderson, are back. Justin Oravetz and soph Mac Janney join Megna on the line.

JAMES MADISON

The Dukes were 3-1 at one time last season, surprising for a team facing a rebuilding job. They even got a mention in the national rankings. Then came the five-game losing streak.

The marquee player among the 15 returning starters is All-America free safety Tony Booth, who ranked No. 2 nationally with eight interceptions. He also had 118 tackles and was a three-time Atlantic 10 defensive player of the week. Junior linebackers Jason Parmer and Cliff Wimbush, both of whom missed much of 1997 with injuries, are healthy.

How the Dukes fare on offense will depend on underclassmen: junior quarterback Greg Maddox, soph tailback Delvin Joyce (1,563 all-purpose yards), and soph wideout Ernest Payton (first-year records of 40 receptions and five touchdowns). Maddox has been the starter since the fourth game in 1996 and has thrown for over 3,000 yards in two seasons. Junior running back Curtis Keaton, a transfer from West Virginia, where he was the No. 2 rusher, will give the offense a jolt.

BIG SKY

Montana should regain the top spot from Eastern Washington.

BY LOREN JORGENSEN

SALT LAKE CITY DESERET NEWS

Big Sky Conference games are well-known for eye-popping offensive statistics and high-scoring shootouts. It's the type of league that if you don't score 30 points or more, you're in trouble. Five Big Sky teams averaged more than 275 yards passing a game last fall.

But when one-third of the league's teams needed new head coaches this year, they all looked to the other side of the ball for help. All three new coaches are former defensive coordinators with experience in the league.

Jerome Souers, the new guy at Northern Arizona, spent 12 years at Montana, the last eight as defensive coordinator. Weber State tabbed former Eastern Washington defensive coordinator Jerry Graybeal. Cal State Northridge will be breaking in a new coach for the third straight year. Ron Ponciano, who was the defensive coordinator for the Matadors in 1996 before spending a year at San Jose State, returns to Northridge as head coach.

Montana, after winning the I-AA national title in 1995 and finishing second in '96, lost in the first-round last year. Still, the Big Sky was well-represented in the playoffs, as Eastern Washington advanced to the semifinals before losing to eventual champion Youngstown State.

Since defending champion Eastern Washington was hit hard by graduation, expect Montana to regain the league championship.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Brian Ah Yat,
QB, Montana

DEFENSE:

Scott Shields,
DB, Weber State

NEWCOMER:

Lance Hattemer,
QB, Eastern Washington

GAMES TO WATCH

Montana at
Eastern Washington,
October 24

Montana State
at Montana,
November 21

MONTANA

Brian Ah Yat, a Hawaiian who has become accustomed to Montana winters, is back—and healthy—for his senior season. He rejoins eight returning starters on an offense that averaged more than 32 points a game last year for coach Mick Dennehy.

Ah Yat was the league's 1996 co-offensive player of the year when he led Montana to the I-AA title game. Great things were expected of him last season, but he sprained his knee in the opener and struggled at times. Still, he managed to throw for 2,691 yards and 21 touchdowns in leading the Grizzlies to the playoffs for the fifth consecutive year. Also returning are Ah Yat's top two receivers, Travis Walker and Raul Pacheco, who combined for 109 receptions and 1,343 yards a year ago.

Montana's defense will need some retooling, as six starters graduated and its long-time coordinator is now the head coach at Northern Arizona. But with two all-conference players back, tackle Kelley Bryant and cornerback Justin Gaines, the Grizzlies have the basis of a strong unit.

Montana has placed first or second in the league each year since 1993. It should have more than enough firepower to earn a sixth consecutive playoff berth.

EASTERN WASHINGTON

After posting the best record in school history (12-2), winning the Big Sky title, and making a trip to the I-AA final four, the Eagles have a tough act to follow in 1998. Fifteen seniors—all starters—graduated. EWU coach Mike Kramer is hoping to build off the success of last season's team.

A year ago the Eagles were the top offensive team in the country, averaging 505 yards a game. While Rex Prescott, who led the league in rushing, is gone, EWU returns Mike MacKenzie (755 yards). Griffin Garske, who completed 64.4 percent of his passes for 477 yards in limited duty as a backup to Harry Leons, could step in at quarterback. If Garske can't get the job done, the Eagles could go with Lance Hattemer, a transfer from Walla Walla Community College.

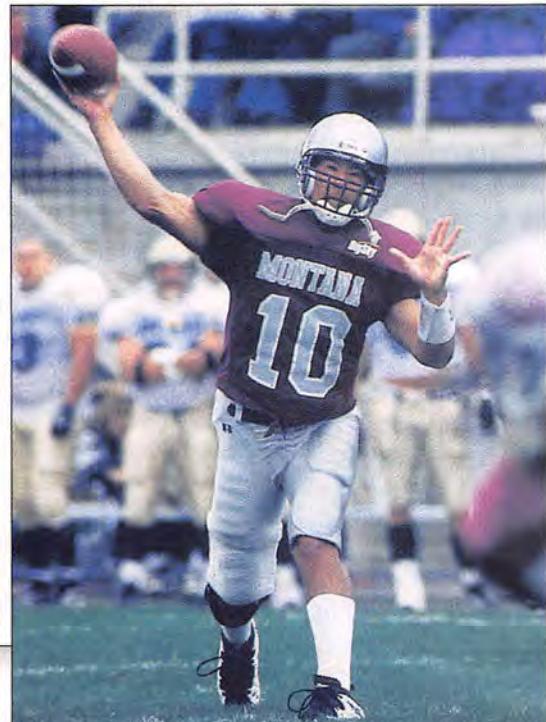
Tackle Lance Knaevelsrud anchors the offensive line and Tyson Knaevelsrud is one of the league's top tight ends. Sophomore cornerback Ole Olesen was honorable mention all-conference.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

The Lumberjacks, after a playoff appearance in 1996, had huge expectations last season that went unfulfilled. They were a disappointing 4-4 in the Big Sky and 6-5 overall. Even with a new coach—Jerome Souers replaces Steve Axman—and a new system, NAU should increase those win totals.

Quarterback Travis Brown had an incredible freshman year in 1996. Following the graduation of Walter Payton Award-winning running back Archie Amerson, Brown had a rougher go of it as a sophomore. He still managed to throw for 3,395 yards, giving him a two-year total of 6,793 (which broke Steve McNair's record for most career yards for a I-AA

Brian Ah Yat, Montana



sophomore). But he had nearly as many interceptions (19) as touchdowns (20). Mike Goldstein was second in the league in field goals. Sophomore punter Clay Brown also returns.

The defense should be improved considering Souers's defensive-minded résumé. The top returnees are linebacker Terrance Petty and end Nick Petrucci.

MONTANA STATE

The Bobcats posted a modest 6–5 record last fall, 5–3 in the conference.

It was the first time since joining I-AA that the Bobcats had put together back-to-back winning seasons. They could make it three in a row, but to do so coach Cliff Hysell will have to fill a lot of holes. He lost 12 starters.

The best news is that Rob Compson is back. A two-year starter, Compson is the league's top returning quarterback. He completed 60.7 percent of his passes last season. He has 32 touchdown passes for his career, including 22 a year ago. His TD total puts him in second place in school history. Tackle John Hausmann will anchor the line and try to keep Compson in one piece. Sophomore Lathian Tyler rushed for 415 yards as a freshman.

The Bobcat defense will be led by first-team all-Big Sky tackle Ty O'Conner. Another defender to watch is linebacker Kevin Lundstrom.

WEBER STATE

Scott Shields will likely earn All-America honors for the Wildcats again this year, but the question is at what position. Not only is he an outstanding safety, but the do-it-all senior had 17 field goals (five more than any other kicker in the Big Sky—with a long of 51 yards), averaged 42.6 yards per punt, and was second in the league with seven interceptions, two of which he returned for scores. His 17 career interceptions are already a school record.

Long-time Wildcat coach Dave Arslanian took over at Utah State. Jerry Graybeal is the new head man at Weber State after 16 seasons as an assistant at Eastern Washington, including nine as the defensive coordinator. The Eagles were the top defensive team in the Big Sky last season under Graybeal.

Quarterback Steve Buck returns for his senior season. He passed for 2,393 yards and 15 scores last fall, but completed just 49.8 percent. Derek Poole, who ran for 506 yards, also returns.

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

The Matadors are in dire need of stability. That doesn't come by having three head coaches in three years. The Matadors, who finished 6–6 overall and 4–4 in the league, should again put up big offensive numbers. Last year they averaged 457 yards per game, including a whopping 358 through the air, which led the nation. They must find a replacement for quarterback Aaron Flowers, who completed 63 percent of his passes. The leading candidate is junior Josh Fiske, who threw for 979 yards and five touchdowns while completing 60 percent as a backup.

Among the 14 returning starters for new coach Ron Ponciano are receivers Aaron Arnold (58 catches for 855 yards) and Mike Ogas (43–669). Leading rusher Marcus Harvey also returns.

While the Matadors were prolific offensively, they will need to improve defensively to move to the top half of the Big Sky standings. Northridge was seventh in the conference in total defense.

PORTLAND STATE

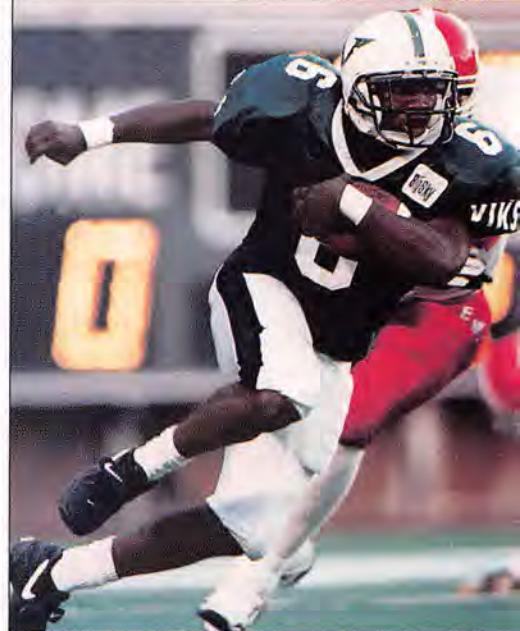
The Vikings are eligible for postseason play, having completed their two-year compliance period after switching to I-AA from Division II. They return 18 starters from the team that won four out of its final six games after opening the year 0–4.

Charles Dunn, the Big Sky newcomer of the year, returns for his sophomore season. He's small (5-7, 180), but he can get the job done as a running back. He rushed for 1,176 yards and eight touchdowns. He is the league's top returnee in rushing and all-purpose yards. The Vikings also have starting quarterback Jimmy Blanchard returning for his sophomore year. He threw for 1,185 yards.

Eight defensive regulars are back, including end Charles Gilmore, linebacker Tom Matijacic, and cornerback Hassan Proberbs. All three were second-team all-conference selections.

IDAHO STATE

Tom Walsh is back for his second season as coach of the Bengals. In his first year ISU went 3–8 overall and 2–6 in the Big Sky. The Bengals return 18 starters, but that doesn't mean they will necessarily get their starting jobs back. Among the large class of signees during the off-season are 12 transfers from junior colleges or other four-year schools.



Charles Dunn, Portland State

Unlike the majority of the Big Sky schools, the Bengals like to run the ball more than they pass it. Fullback Craig Joseph, who sat out last year with a non-football injury, ranks 10th on the all-time ISU rushing chart, with 1,070 yards. He needs just 413 yards this season to vault into third place. Sophomore quarterback Seth Burford threw for 690 yards. Rejoining him are senior Kennedy Nkeyasen (619 yards) and junior fullback Anthony Elgaaen (584).

Six regulars return from a defense that surrendered 433 yards and 32.4 points per game.

SACRAMENTO STATE

It's not a good sign when your top player is your punter. But that was the case for the Hornets last fall. Steve Thorns, who returns for his senior year, was the only Sacramento State player to be named to the all-Big Sky team. He led the league with a 44-yard average, which placed him fifth in the nation.

The Hornets were 1–10 overall and 1–7 in the Big Sky. It's easy to see why: They were the most generous defense in the league, giving up more than 500 yards and 37 points a game. One bright spot was outside linebacker Ryland Wickman, who set a school record with 154 tackles. He'll be back for his senior campaign. The defense will have to be much improved for Sac State to get out of the Big Sky basement.

The Hornets also return their top quarterback, A.J. Bernhardt (1,876 yards passing) and top rusher, Charles Roberts (587 yards). ■

GATEWAY

Youngstown State is the best team in the premier I-AA league.

BY PAUL JANKOWSKI
THE TIMES OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

There is no debating the strength of the Gateway and its reputation as the nation's premier I-AA football conference. Observers refer to this league of seven Midwest schools as a miniature Big Ten. The successful Gateway teams tend to rely on I-A transfers, often from Big Ten schools. Gateway players may be leftovers from the recruiting trail—guys considered a step slow, an inch or two short, or a few pounds too light for the Big Ten. But that also inspires them to play with a defiant attitude, which produces quality football.

The comparison to the Big Ten is pertinent, particularly after last season. Like the Big Ten, the Gateway produced a national champion in 1997. Youngstown State, a first-year Gateway member, defeated Villanova (the first and only loss for the Atlantic 10 champ) in the playoffs and recorded a thrilling 10-9 victory over McNeese State in the I-AA title game. The Penguins' fourth national championship of the 1990s demonstrated the power of the Gateway. You see, before getting hot in the postseason, Youngstown State managed just a third-place finish in the conference.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:
Aaron Stecker,
RB, Western Illinois

DEFENSE:
Matt Pedersen,
LB, Northern Iowa

NEWCOMER:
Todd Goebbel,
QB, Northern Iowa

GAME TO WATCH

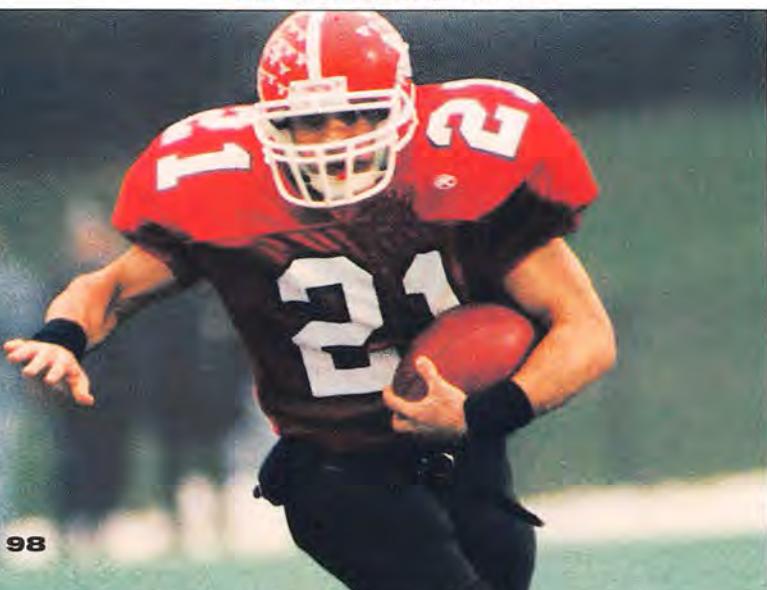
Youngstown State at
Western Illinois,
October 3

YOUNGSTOWN STATE

The Mid-American Conference knew what it was doing a few years back when it denied Youngstown's bid for admission to the league. Youngstown would have been an annual threat to win the MAC title; its 44-23 victory over Kent early last season provided a hint of evidence. Coach Jim Tressel has built a powerhouse program, winning national titles in 1991, 1993, 1994, and last season. The Penguins could do it again this season.

Tressel says the leadership provided by 17 seniors was the key to last year's 13-2 national cham-

Jake Andreadis, Youngstown State



pions. While those players are gone, including Gateway defensive player of the year Harry Deligianis and quarterback Demond Tidwell, the talent pool is not dry. Seven starters return from a defense that gave up just 15.5 points a game, including honors candidates Mike Stanec and Jarrett Goode at linebacker and free safety Dwyte Smiley.

Jake Andreadis and Adrian Brown combined for more than 1,900 yards and 30 TDs last fall running behind fullback Matt Richardson. Junior Jared Zwick is the heir apparent at quarterback, although he was pushed during spring practice by redshirt freshman Jim Keagy. Speedy junior Renauld Ray is the Penguins' top receiver, while center Ian Shirey and guard Frank Rutherford are back on the line.

PREDICTIONS

1. Youngstown State
2. Western Illinois
3. Northern Iowa
4. Southwest Missouri State
5. Southern Illinois
6. Indiana State
7. Illinois State

WESTERN ILLINOIS

An abundance of I-A transfers provided coach Randy Ball with the talent he needed to lead the Leathernecks to the Gateway title and an impressive 11-2 overall record.

All-everything running back Aaron Stecker is an example of a former I-A player switching gears to dominate in I-AA.

Stecker left Wisconsin after the 1996 season, cognizant that his playing time would dwindle behind big Badger Ron Dayne. The 5-11, 195-pound Stecker had played a lot his first two years at Wisconsin after redshirting in '94, but he left when Dayne became the main man as a freshman. It was a good move for Stecker, who set 23 school and seven Gateway records, including 2,293 yards rushing and 27 touchdowns.

The question for Leatherneck fans is whether Stecker can do it again. He will be working behind a rebuilt offensive line with just one returning starter, big (6-5, 300) senior right tackle Casey Honkomp. Another transfer from Wisconsin, junior Mark Zanders, will take over at quarterback from Jeff Hecklinski, who had transferred from Illinois.

Defensively, six regulars return, including senior James Milton, the leading tackler and the best linebacker in a talented corps. And Ball has 10 more I-A transfers on the roster, so look for Western to make another run at the Gateway and national titles.

NORTHERN IOWA

Growing pains in Cedar Falls are a 7-4 overall record and second-place finish in the Gateway thanks to a 29-22 double-overtime loss to Western Illinois. But coach Mike Dunbar, now in his second season, has been forgiven and is expected to get his team back to the top of the Gateway.

The Panthers had won or shared the Gateway title seven years in a row. They rely heavily on I-A transfers, and one will direct the offense this fall. Senior Todd Goebbel, from Kent, won the starting job in spring practice over Ryan Helming and Brian Anderson. Goebbel has a talented young group of receivers led by All-America candidate Mike Furrey (82 catches for 1,291 yards), Tramon Thomas, and Eddie Berlin



Mike Furrey, Northern Iowa

(46-640). Six starters return on offense, including linemen Brad Meester and Matt Beals and tight end Justin Nofal.

Defense will be the Panthers' strength with nine returning starters. Junior linebacker Matt Pedersen, a first-team all-conference performer, led the league in tackles and, according to Dunbar, is the team's hardest worker in the off-season. Cornerback Tyree Talton, who struggled a bit in the new system, has pro potential.

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI ST.

In a league where the experienced teams dominate, the Bears may be one year away from challenging for the title. When coach Del Miller took over in 1995, the recruits who would have been seniors this year deserted the program. Just two of those players remain. They join four transfers to form a six-man senior class to go along with 13 juniors.

The young Bears are talented. Undersized linebacker Corky Martin (5-10, 205) led the club in tackles and became the school's first freshman to win all-conference honors. He rejoins five other returning regulars on the unit, including senior linebacker LeKeith Hampton. The secondary, which received a rude awakening at the end of the season when injuries decimated the defensive line, is solid with

juniors Kevin Hunt, Jeff Killeen, and Shawn Lockhart and sophomore C.J. Steele.

Senior Derek Jensen earned the quarterback job in the spring. He'll take over for four-year starter Jeremy Hoog, who owns the school's total-offense record. Jensen did see action in eight games last fall, and in the spring scrimmage he threw for 242 yards. He will direct a unit that has just four returning regulars: running back Maurice Daniels, wide receiver Chance Thurman, tight end Brad St. Louis, and guard Tony Flint.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The first order of business for coach Jan Quarless was installing a new attitude last season, his first in Carbondale. When a new coach takes over, players from the old regime often leave the program. It happened during a 3-8 campaign and, coupled with injuries, the Salukis had fewer than 70 players available near the end of the season. So a young squad took its lumps last fall.

Eight offensive regulars are back, including senior quarterback Kent Skornia, a transfer from Missouri. He threw for 1,980 yards and 14 touchdowns and will again be looking for junior Cornell Craig, who set SIU records for receptions (57) and receiving yards (1,036) a year ago. The Salukis have talented running backs in Karlton Carpenter, Bryan Nolbertowicz, and Paul Davis, a transfer from Kansas who looked good in the spring. Walter Skeate, Brandon Frick, and Jarrod Joiner return up front.

Just three defensive starters are back: backs Jean Baptiste and Sam Wilkerson and lineman Tavita Tovio. First-team all-Gateway punter John Amitrano averaged 42.4 yards per kick to lead the conference.

INDIANA STATE

The Gateway isn't easy on rookie coaches. Even Northern Iowa had some problems last season under a first-year coach. So the Sycamores can expect a rocky road under Tim McGuire, the defensive coordinator under Dennis Raetz, who retired after 18 seasons.

McGuire's first task was to install a new offense to light a spark under a unit that ranked 116th out of 118 I-AA teams. McGuire will use a triple-option spread with four receivers and one back. Sophomore quarterback Steve Englehart won the job over incumbent Matt Gajewski, who played baseball in the spring

and will be moved to wide receiver. Running back Sha Caldwell, fullback Calvin Thomas, and wide receiver Kyle Thomas return at the skill positions.

The defense remains stable with eight returning starters, led by all-conference junior tackle Shannon Jackson, who played the second half of the season with a broken hand. Versatile back DeJuan Alfonzo will also see action at receiver and as a kick returner.

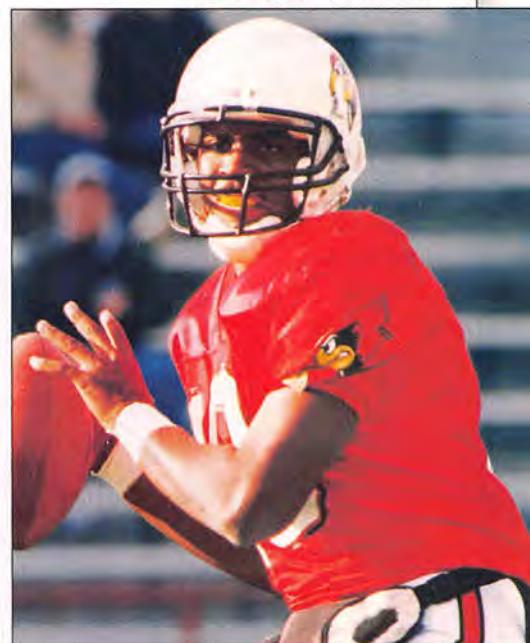
ILLINOIS STATE

A spring fraternity incident that led to suspensions for eight players was the last thing coach Todd Berry needed after another disappointing season. Only two of those players remained on the spring roster. Berry enters the third year of his rebuilding process with that black cloud hanging over the program. Fortunately, none of the players involved were big contributors during a 2-9 season that ended with eight consecutive losses. Of the 44 players on the two-deep roster, 14 were first-year players.

Sophomore quarterback Kevin Glenn threw for a school-record 2,265 yards and will be working behind a line that includes two veterans, tackle Tony Knutson and guard Mike Rodbro. Ex-quarterback Darnell Jones returns for his junior season after making a successful switch to running back (649 yards) last fall.

Defensively, the Redbirds are inexperienced up front, but return starting linebackers Tim Angsten and Galen Scott and backs Marcus Corbin and Ryan Szokola. ■

Kevin Glenn, Illinois State



IVY LEAGUE

Harvard will try for its first outright back-to-back Ivy titles.

BY CHUCK NEWMAN
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Harvard won its first Ivy League title since 1987 last season, running the table with seven league victories. It lost only once all season, won more games than any team in school history since 1919, and became the first Harvard team in this century to score 300 points.

Now comes the hard part. The Crimson will try for the first outright back-to-back Ivy League championships in school history. The 1974 team tied for the title with Yale a year before winning it, and Harvard shared the crown with Penn in 1982-83.

Coach Tim Murphy's 1998 team has the makings to repeat with an all-Ivy running back, a second-team all-league quarterback, and two second-team all-league defensive players. But league history is against him. Only three schools, Dartmouth (1972-73), Yale (1979-80), and Penn (1984-85-86, 1993-94) have won consecutive titles.

The element of surprise is gone for Harvard. The league title should go down to the last two weeks of the season, with Brown and Penn figuring as the top challengers to a Harvard repeat.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

James Perry,
QB, Brown

DEFENSE:

Isaiah Kacyvenski,
LB, Harvard

NEWCOMER:

Jason Lucas,
S, Brown

GAMES TO WATCH

Harvard at Columbia,
September 19

Penn at Brown,
October 24

Harvard at Princeton,
October 24

Brown at Harvard,
November 7

Harvard at Penn,
November 14

HARVARD

Coach Tim Murphy is quick to point out the difficulty of repeating as league champion, but he has the ingredients for a second straight Ivy title.

The return of all-Ivy running back Chris Menick (school-record 1,267 yards) and second-team all-league quarterback Rich Linden (2,099 yards passing and 16 TDs) is a good start. Both are juniors. The numbers do not fully describe the value of each. "Rich Linden did as much as any quarterback in the league to put us in position to win," Murphy said.

Chris Menick, Harvard



PREDICTIONS

1. Harvard
2. Brown
3. Penn
4. Columbia
5. Dartmouth
6. Cornell
7. Princeton
8. Yale

BROWN

Coach Mark Whipple is gone, leaving windburn on opponents' defenses after four seasons with his "Whiplash" offense. Defensive coordinators can expect no respite, however, because new coach Phil Estes was Whipple's offensive coordinator and a key architect of the league's most explosive attack.

"Mark brought this team to a competitive level in four years, but the job isn't finished," said Estes. "My job is to take the Brown football team to the next level—the Ivy League championship."

Brown returns junior receiver Sean Morey, the league's player of the year after compiling 1,434 receiving yards (the sixth-best total in NCAA I-AA history), and junior quarterback Sean Perry (2,868 passing yards, 2,941 yards in total offense), who had six TD tosses in one game against Columbia. That's just the beginning. Also back are running back Michael Powell and seven players who started at least three games on the offensive line.

The offense will have to buy time for a defense that returns five starters but will have to find a replacement (perhaps Jason Lucas) for Rocky Parson, who led the nation with eight interceptions.

PENN

The arrival of Duke transfer Matt Rader had the Quakers thinking title last season. Rader did not disappoint, throwing for 1,832 yards. He wasn't enough, though. And it really didn't matter since the Quakers were forced to forfeit five games after all-league defensive tackle Mitch Marrow was ruled ineligible. Rader will be back, but the Quakers will be undergoing renovations at other positions.

Running back, however, is solid. Jim Finn, a throwback to the days of the two-way player, is coming off an 800-yard season in which he had six games of 100 yards or more and scored 11 touchdowns. Against Columbia, Finn rushed for one touchdown and returned an interception for another. Holy Chuck Bednarik!

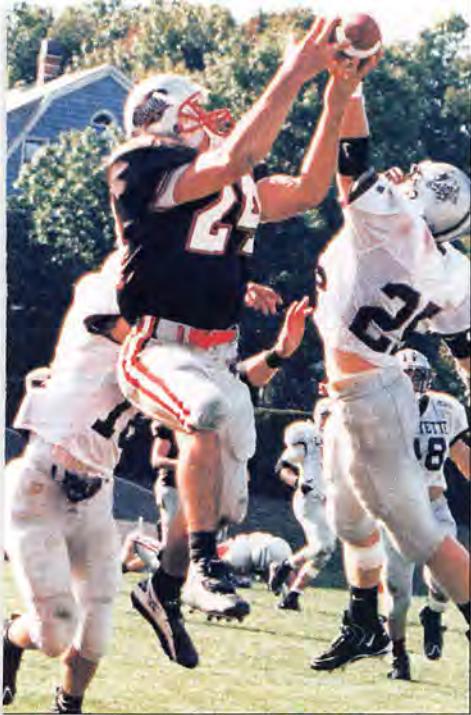
Rader should have ample catchers in Doug O'Neil, who caught 32 passes, and David Rogers, who had a promising freshman year. The down side is that

Of Menick, Yale coach Jack Sidelecki said: "He isn't the fastest back in the league, nor is he the shiest. But he is the best."

Two of the anchors of the line, all-league tackle Matt Birk and guard Dave Elliott, have graduated. But Harvard still has depth at the position.

Defense could be a different story, where two all-league linemen and another who made the second team are gone from a unit that was the most physical in the league. The Crimson return the Ivy's best linebacker in Isaiah Kacyvenski, who was the team's leading tackler, and cornerback Glenn Jackson, who had six interceptions last fall.

Color Harvard a contender, if not a repeater.



Sean Morey, Brown

both lines suffered devastating losses, including Marrow, the school's all-time sack leader, and all-league offensive linemen Mike Soyster and Chris Riley.

COLUMBIA

The Lions were not very good last year, winning only twice in the league and three games overall. Coach Ray Tellier thinks the performance was as much psychological as physical. "We were coming off our best season in 51 years [8-2, 5-2 in the league]," he said. "Maybe some of the players thought good things would just happen for us, and didn't work as hard."

Correcting that attitude and finding a quarterback are the top priorities this fall. Tellier had six players, including a JC transfer and two highly touted freshmen, competing at quarterback in spring practice to replace two-year starter Bobby Thomason. Whoever wins the job will have all-league tight end Bert Biondi as a target. Columbia will likely keep it conservative on offense, banking on tailback Norman Hayes, John Toye, and Jason Bivens, who was the team's leading rusher in 1996 before being injured.

One thing the defense has going for it is experience. End Rashaan Curry and tackle Jim Armstrong, as well as the entire starting linebacking unit of Jeremy Taylor, Paul Roland (the team's leading tackler), and Kevin Wright, return.

"We took a step backward in our work ethic last year," Tellier said. "This year, we are going back to the basics, to the things that brought us success."

DARTMOUTH

The Big Green have been a player in the Ivy League championship race in five of the six seasons John Lyons has been head coach. This year should be no different. Lyons, 44-15-1 since coming over after being an assistant with a dominating Penn program, is after a third league title. He figures to add to his record with a nucleus of talent that has been 25-4-1 over the last three seasons.

It won't be easy. Dartmouth has to replace five all-star players, including three-time all-Ivy linebacker Zack Walz, who made the defense the stingiest in the league last fall. The Big Green's 6-1 league mark was the direct result of a defense that bailed the team out in fourth-quarter situations three times a year ago. Linebacking is the long suit of the defense, which features second-team all-Ivy performer Jon Gibbs.

Dartmouth doesn't appear to have the firepower to change things much this year. Searching for a consistent quarterback is one of its main goals. Running the ball should be the game plan since the top four rushers, led by versatile senior Dylan Karczewski (541 yards, 23 receptions for 313 yards, 6 TDs), are back.

CORNELL

New coach Pete Mangurian, 42, fresh off five years as an assistant coach in the NFL, succeeds Jim Hofher, the most successful coach at Cornell in four decades. Mangurian has a difficult act to follow. He must replace almost the entire starting offensive line, plus the team's top rusher, Brad Kiesendahl (513 yards), and receiver, all-Ivy Eric Krawczyk (14 school records).

There are building blocks, headed by quarterback Mike Hood, who completed over 60 percent of his passes for 1,128 yards and eight touchdowns last fall. The strongest position on the team may be linebacker, where senior John Hanson, a four-year starter and second-team all-league performer, and senior Jorge Alvarez, who had three interceptions to go with 84 tackles, return.

The Big Red figures to get decent field position with punter Charles Waston, who was second-best in the league with a 40.76-yard average. Junior John McCombs made 11 of 15 field goals and 30 of 31 extra points a year ago.

Mangurian should find out about his team early when Cornell opens Princeton's new stadium.

PRINCETON

Princeton will prove this fall that you can go home again after all. The Tigers played their entire season on the road last year, awaiting construction of their new, cozier stadium (27,800 seats, as opposed to the previous 45,750). Despite the geographical disadvantage, they were 4-1 before losing four of their last five games and finishing 5-5 overall and a dismal 2-5 in the Ivy League.

Coach Steve Tosches said that travel was only one factor in the poor showing. Lack of offense has been the big problem as the Tigers have managed only 87 points in each of the last two league seasons. The questions start at quarterback, where there have been four starters in the last five years. Senior John Burnham, who threw the ball only 44 times in 1997, will likely be the starter, but Tosches has three sophomores and two highly regarded freshmen.

As for the running game, "It will probably be by committee," the coach said. Gerry Giurato (509 yards, 24 receptions), has been moved to defense. The line, featuring junior Hamin Abdullah, returns intact.

Defense will again have to carry the team. End Griff King and tackle Mark Whaling are back on the unit that allowed only 2.6 yards per rush. Freshman linebacker Drew Babinecz turned down offers from stronger programs. All-Ivy kicker Alex Sierk has the school record of 15 straight field goals.

YALE

The Eli return 15 starters—if you count the punter and kicker. That's from a team whose only victory was over Valparaiso last season. Nowhere to go but up? Maybe. Valparaiso isn't on the schedule this season, so that one victory may be tougher to accomplish. And the two players who made the second-team all-league squad were defensive linemen on a unit that surrendered a league high 183 points in seven games.

Because of injuries, Yale played three quarterbacks last fall. Whoever wins the job will work behind a line that has experience and probably the team's best player in 310-pound Chris Ryan. Jabbar Craigwell, who led the team in rushing and receiving in '96, is back after missing last season with a wrist injury.

Linebackers Scott Benton, second on the team in tackles, and Peter Mazza, who played well as a freshman, return.

METRO ATLANTIC

Fast-improving Fairfield provides a challenge for Duquesne.

BY BILL HELLER

It's not supposed to be this easy. Coach Kevin Kiesel needed only two years to take Fairfield, which had never had a football program, to title contender. After a 1-8 introduction in 1996, the Stags startled their MAAC rivals, going 7-3 last season, the 11th-best turnaround in Division I-AA history.

"We were 1-8, but our kids got all that experience, and we got better and better," Kiesel said. "I knew we were going to have a winning team."

Now he may have a MAAC champion. The Stags will challenge Duquesne, defense-oriented Marist and St. John's, and defending champion Georgetown in a wide-open title chase.

"We have everybody back, and they're bigger, faster, and stronger," Kiesel said. "I think we can win the MAAC."

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:
Andre Hatcher,
TB, Duquesne

DEFENSE:
Reid Ellis,
DL, Marist

NEWCOMER:
Harry Sutton,
CB/RB, Iona

GAMES TO WATCH

St. John's at
Fairfield,
September 20

Marist at Duquesne,
October 10

DUQUESNE

After seeing their chances for another MAAC title evaporate with consecutive losses to St. John's and Georgetown, the Dukes drubbed Iona, St. Peter's, and Canisius to complete a 7-3 season. Success this year hinges on junior quarterback Matt Civitello, who threw only 21 passes last fall. He's got plenty of firepower as Duquesne returns its three top rushers in all-MAAC tailback Andre Hatcher (699 yards), tailback Ameer Dudley (373), and fullback Rausaan Powell (205), as well as wideout Earl Johnson, who caught 27 passes for 607 yards and three touchdowns.

The defense retains eight regulars, including senior linebacker Matt Fisher and sack leaders Todd Amick and Steve Stepanovich on the line. Backs Andy DeFazio and Aaron Stahl each had three interceptions. Place-kicker Brian Vautier (seven of 12 field goals) and punter Orlando Bellisario (35.4-yard average) are team assets.

FAIRFIELD

Everybody returns, stamping the Stags as legitimate MAAC contenders. Running back Marvin Royal averaged 170 yards in his first two games, but broke his collarbone against Georgetown. Shearrod Duncan stepped in and rushed for over 100 yards in the final four games, finishing with 793 and four touchdowns. Quarterback Jim Lopusznick improved his numbers considerably in his second season (55.2 percent, 1,971 yards, 19 TDs, and 17 interceptions). Eric Wise caught 67 passes for 698 yards and four TDs, while Joe Milligan had 38 receptions and eight TDs.

Safety Chris Silvestri led the defense in tackles

(90), solo tackles (68), interceptions (4), and deflections (12). Linebackers Marques Burgess and Steve Norcini are solid. Steve Krines and Marc Ryan topped the line in sacks. Jason Bursch made nine of 12 field goals and 23 of 28 PATs.

ST. JOHN'S

The Red Storm (8-3), who were ineligible for conference games last year because of a disputed grant-in-aid, have to weather the loss of tailback Jermaine Creighton, who had 1,114 of the team's 1,248 yards rushing, and quarterback Mark Levine, who was expected to graduate early.

Josiah Mooney or Tom Donnelly will be the new quarterback, throwing to senior tight end Gus Cheliotis (25 catches) and wide receivers James Morton and Steve Kalberer, who combined for 36 receptions and four touchdowns. Senior Yves Delva and junior Pat Keena will get more than their combined 39 carries last fall.

A defense that started seven freshmen and allowed more than 14 points only once in its final eight games returns superb linebackers Anthony Zito (15 sacks), Rob Feise, and Rich Hosein; sophomore linemen Elliot Hulse (10 sacks) and Erik Grzan; and back Ken Krapf (3 interceptions).

MARIST

Hoping to ride a record-breaking defense and a four-game winning streak at the end of a 6-4 season, the Red Foxes are poised to contend for the conference title.

Marist's defense, which ranked No. 1 in the nation and set records for fewest rushing yards per game (39.8) and fewest yards per carry (1.2) allowed, starts with senior linemen Reid Ellis, Dwayne Bates, and Jerry Gerth. Ellis had a career-high 12.5 sacks and a team-high 72 tackles, and was joined on the all-MAAC team by Bates, who earned the honor for the second straight year after registering 44 tackles and eight sacks. Gerth had 51 tackles, five pass deflections, and four blocked kicks. All-MAAC senior Darren Valdes returns at linebacker.

Senior tailback J.J. Allen (697 yards, 9 TDs) is proven. Senior quarterback Bill Tramaglini is untested. Wideouts Tim Korba and Brian Traynor are back, but leading receiver John Reed, who had 46 of Marist's 81 catches, is not. Jeff DeVito made 26 of 27 PATs, but only two of six field goals.

GEORGETOWN

The Hoyas lost 13 starters, including all-time leading rusher Steve Iorio and all-time leading passer Bill Ward, from an 8-3 team that won its first MAAC championship with a 7-0 mark. J.J. Mont, who played well as a freshman in 1996, steps in at quarterback, while senior Aquil Stinson and Rich-

mond transfer Rob Belli will try to compensate for Iorio's absence. Senior wideout Matt Mattimore and junior tight end Bill Rutkoske figure prominently. Sean Brady, all-MAAC choice in '96, returns on the offensive line after missing last year with a shoulder injury.

Senior Mike Melchionda will be helped at linebacker if Anthony Pizirusso returns from a season-ending knee injury suffered in the Hoyas' third game. Junior tackles Matt Sollitto and Charlie Neuhaus, ends Mike Halen and Paul Miller, and backs Brian Dwyer, Anthony Bartolomeo, and Jim Gallagher key the Hoyas' 5-2 defense.

SIENA

Throw out one-sided losses to Duquesne and Marist to open and close the season and Siena was 6-1. But you can't throw out the loss of Reggie Greene, Division I-AA's all-time leading rusher, who had 1,698 of Siena's 2,045 yards rushing and 17 of its 25 offensive touchdowns.

With Greene gone, senior quarter-

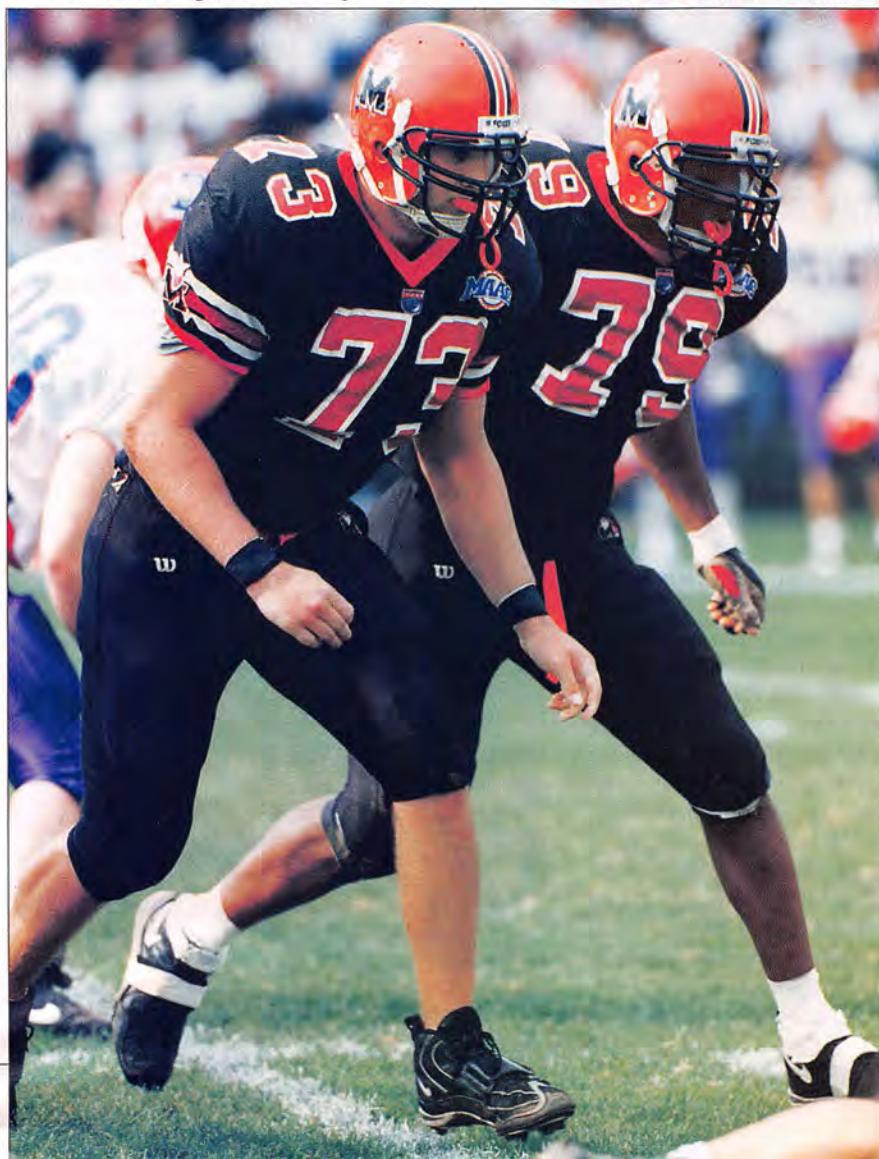
back Steve Dearstyne (44.1 percent completions, 889 yards, 4 TDs, 7 interceptions) will have a green light to throw more than the 152 passes he attempted last year. Juniors Rance Hillier and Chris Madigan are capable targets. Fullback Frank Corvino (7.9-yard average) will get more than 18 carries this time.

Linebackers Robert Fish and Guy Galianella (3 fumble recoveries), tackle Christopher Trumbull (3.5 sacks), and deep backs Paul Serie (MAAC-high 7 interceptions) and Kevin Kilgallon lead the defense.

CANISIUS

The Golden Griffins had a lead or were tied in the fourth quarter seven times and lost five of those games in a 3-7 season. Quarterbacks Bryan Roland and Jon Ross hope to cut down on their interceptions. Senior tailback Nick Adinolfi (923 yards, 22 catches, 8 TDs) is already the school's No. 6 all-time rusher. Wide receivers Jason Przybysz and

Reid Ellis and Dwayne Bates, Marist



COURTESY OF MARIST COLLEGE

Joe Spirane and all-MAAC tackle Tony Zoratti are offensive strengths.

The Griffins ranked eighth nationally in pass defense thanks to senior strong safety P.J. Rakoski (5 interceptions, 63 tackles), free safety Dan Wojtulewicz, and cornerback Darrione Nall (3 interceptions). Canisius graduated MAAC defensive player of the year Scott Dochat, but returns senior end Mike Fatta (9 sacks) and linebackers Max Kerry (78 tackles) and Billy Joyce (2 interceptions).

IONA

When the Gaels' defense played well, the offense did not in a 14-7 loss at Canisius and a 14-12 loss at St. Peter's, the closest Iona got to a victory in a winless (0-10) season.

Defense will be the strength as the Gaels try to improve under new coach Fred Mariani. Tom Moran had seven of the team's 16.5 sacks and was second on the team in tackles (71). Linebacker Jim Darway and back Jonathan McCord, who had team highs of four interceptions and 14 deflections, also return. Keep an eye on the versatile Harry Sutton.

Five sophomores—tailback Ralph Saldiveri (499 yards), tight end Peter Shea (12 catches), wide receiver Greg Fabiani, and quarterbacks Chris Tramaglia and Mike Dikun—will try to jump-start an offense that managed only one touchdown pass and 54 points all season.

ST. PETER'S

Well, there was a 14-12 victory over Iona and a close loss to Fairfield (38-34), but there were few other highlights from a 1-9 season.

James Lyver, who completed 20 of 54 passes for 182 yards, three interceptions, and no touchdowns, inherits the quarterback job. He has an explosive tailback in 5-7 Sylvester Miller, who finished second in the nation in kickoff returns with a 29.5-yard average. The highlight was a 91-yarder for a touchdown. Jelani Polite (28 catches), Brian James, and tight end Russ Snyder give Lyver experienced targets.

The strength of the defense is the secondary, where veterans Charles Richardson, Byron Shaw, and Gunther Carrero are joined by Preston Pitts, a 1996 starter who didn't play last fall. Richardson, Shaw, and Carrero each had two interceptions a year ago. All-MAAC linebacker Colin Scheifler was second on the team in tackles (64). Senior Pat Murphy returns on the line. ■

MEAC

Led by a punishing defense, Hampton will be strong again.

BY DON CORBETT

Last season was one of the best and brightest in recent memory in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. The league placed three teams in postseason play, two in the Division I-AA playoffs and one in the Heritage Bowl. Hampton emerged out of the balance and parity, putting together an undefeated league season to win the MEAC, surprising just about everyone in the process—except themselves.

This year, Norfolk State, formerly of the Central Inter-collegiate Athletic Association, steps into the mix, giving the league nine football schools. The Spartans will find quickly that there won't be any off weekends in the MEAC, with each team capable of doing some damage in the league standings.

Hampton, led by a punishing defense, will be strong again, with South Carolina State and Florida A&M right behind it. North Carolina A&T and Howard could again factor in at the end, with the rest of the league's teams jockeying for position in the second level.

Two years ago, Coppin State broke through and gave the league some respectability with its first victory in the NCAA basketball tournament. This year, whoever comes out of the pack will hope to do the same in the I-AA playoffs.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Jacquay Nunnally,
WR, Florida A&M

DEFENSE:

Marques Douglas,
DT, Howard

NEWCOMER:

Ike Hall,
QB, Bethune-Cookman

GAMES TO WATCH

Hampton at
Florida A&M,
September 5

Hampton vs. Grambling
(at Giants Stadium),
September 26

Hampton at
South Carolina State,
October 24

South Carolina State
at Florida A&M,
November 14

HAMPTON

The Pirates (10-2) were able to string together 10 straight victories last season en route to the MEAC title for one reason: defense. They led the league in rushing defense, total defense, and scoring defense, allowing one touchdown or less in five games.

Coach Joe Taylor welcomes back seven starters off that unit, including linebackers Deon Hunt and David Turner and cornerback Donald Turner. The trio earned all-MEAC honors. End Charles Preston rejoins them. And look for linebacker Jamal Brooks and corner Willie Bennett to contribute.

Junior Roy Johnson will again steer the ship. He completed 52 percent of his passes for nearly 1,500 yards. He'll be joined in the backfield by Mike Jones and Montrell Coley and wingback Tyrone Tolbert. Tight end Latrell Scott and Matt Williams, a converted quarterback, head the receivers. Bennitte Waddell and Kelly McClendon punched holes for the runners at a pace of nearly five yards per carry.

The Pirates will sneak up on no one this time.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

How does a team finish last in the league in total offense and still manage to win nine games? It does it with a solid, opportunistic defense, excellent special teams, and poise in tight games.

This year, coach Willie Jefferies welcomes back 16 starters from a 9-3 team. Strong safety/special-team ace Jermaine Derricott led the MEAC in tackles and seemed to be around the ball on just about every play. Tyrone Bell and Antonio Williams return on the defensive line as do Tito Hannah, Justin Danier, and Derek Dingle at linebacker. Darryl Robinson and Jami Oats add experience in the secondary.

Reggie Curry completed just 37 percent of his passes, but had a 2-1 touchdown/interception ratio and showed an ability to make the big play. Chad Eaddy churned out 461 yards as a freshman, while receivers Johnny Loper and Corey Mitchell flashed potential. The key to S.C. State's production was a physical line led by Kamar Lee, Steve Colimon, and Patrick Heard.

Cedric Oglesby doubles as punter and place-kicker. If the Bulldogs are as efficient as they were in '97, they should make a strong push for the league title.

FLORIDA A&M

The Rattlers (9-3) were only six points away from an undefeated regular season (a three-point overtime loss at North Carolina A&T and a three-point loss at Hampton). There are holes to fill, but coach Billy Joe will have FAMU in the chase.

The biggest hole is at quarterback. All-America Oteman Sampson has departed, taking 6,800 total yards and 48 touchdowns passes with him. Redshirt sophomore Mike Morand emerged in the spring, but the coaches also like the skills of junior college transfer Roland Dykstra. Sophomore all-league selection Jacquay Nunnally caught 61 passes for over 1,000 yards. Tariq Qaiyim and Cainon Lamb combined for 64 catches. Center Keith Morris anchors the line.

The Rattlers will employ a 4-3 defense with the hope of bringing more heat to opposing quarterbacks. Linebacker Olrick Johnson rejoins linemen Tyronn Johnson, Terrence Woodard, and Ebbie Parsons and cornerback Russell Parker on the unit. The Rattlers have another weapon in kicker Juan Toro, who is the MEAC's best.

Reggie Curry, South Carolina State



NORTH CAROLINA A&T

Coach Bill Hayes turns over a new leaf this fall in Aggieland. Gone is the wing-T attack that helped Hayes become the winningest coach in A&T history. In its place is a wide-open passing attack that Hayes hopes will push the Aggies (7-4) to the top of the MEAC.

Just who will run the one-back, four-receiver set is uncertain. Rodney Woodruff heads the quarterback candidates. Adon Hall had some bright spots in the latter half of the season and transfer Colin Harris will also push for time. Ben Garrett has been moved to wide receiver, where he joins speedster Henry Douglas. Mike Basnight is the top returning back, but Hayes must replace much of his offensive line.

The Aggies lost some defensive standouts, including league player of the year and All-America Chris McNeil. Troy Pelshak came into his own at end and has much of the same big-play potential of McNeil. All-league linebacker Marquis Bailey also returns.

HOWARD

Last season was disappointing for coach Steve Wilson. The Bison (7-4) had a number of returnees from the 1996 team that finished 10-2 and won the Heritage Bowl. But inexperience on the offensive line, inconsistent special teams, and injuries created problems.

This year, the Buffalo Soldiers hope to regain the form of two years ago. The main man on defense is all-MEAC tackle Marques Douglas. He'll be joined by Roy Sampson, who is healthy after an injury-plagued season. Sophomores Douglas Miller and Damien McKnight also return, as do linebackers Lamont Darden and Cadorran Askew. Chris Rogers, Jarvis George, and Darnell McDowell form the nucleus of a fine secondary.

Howard has the league's top returning quarterback in Ted White. After throwing for 36 touchdowns as a sophomore, White saw his production fall off, but he still passed for 2,581 yards and 18 TDs. Fifth-year senior Stuart Broome ran for over 700 yards. He'll be joined in the backfield by Desmond Wise and Jermaine Hutchinson. Greg Kyler, Stephen Cameron, and Marlon Ward are the top receivers, but the key to their productivity may be the line, which must give him more time. Fifth-year senior Fred Ray is a quality center. Eddie Hooper and Levar Young are experienced.

DELAWARE STATE

Coach John McKenzie's first year at Delaware State (3-8) quickly deteriorated into six straight losses to end the season. Turnovers stung the Hornets, taking them out of several games.

Fifteen starters return, including running backs Louis Gould and Clay Perry. Sophomores Albert Horsey and Darrian McCants are solid receivers, and quarterback Rahsaan Matthews, who was hurt last season, is healthy after throwing for 11 touchdowns two years ago. Lamar Jenkins and Marcus Howard have experience up front.

Defensively, Mike Kargbo is a three-year regular. Wayne Stackhouse joins him up front. Omar Jackson, Eric Williams, and Joshua Smith are back at cornerback, and free safety Dante Jones doubles on the special teams. The Hornets lost a trio of outstanding defenders in Cedric Jones, Jamal Perkins, and Jason Williams.

NORFOLK STATE

In a rehearsal run through some of the MEAC teams last fall, the Spartans finished 2-5 (3-7 overall). This year, Norfolk is eligible for the championship.

Coach Darnell Moore has a wide-open attack. Sophomore Charles Burnette and juniors Tyrone Sellers and Delvin Peeks combined for 103 catches. The big problem is finding a passer. Sophomore Maurice Selby is the leading candidate, but he is untested. Kondivani Johnson and Angelo Todd are the top running backs, and Winston Stewart, Lashaun Mack, and Michael Early head an improved line.

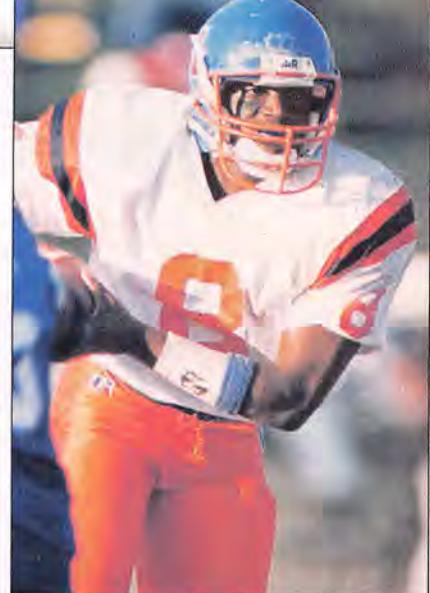
Twin linebackers Alonzo and Alfonso Goodwyn are back for their senior year. They'll be joined by Carnell Pearson and Antwoine Shaw, who may also see time at end. Travoris Carnes, a junior tackle, is back, as is cornerback Theo Roach in a young secondary.

The MEAC is largely a run-oriented league, so the Spartans' propensity to fill the air with footballs will provide a new look for many of the league's teams.

BETHUNE-COOKMAN

Last season was a learning experience in many ways for Alvin Wyatt, who was in his first year as head coach, and his young team (4-7).

Wide receiver James Adderley, an All-America candidate, topped the 1,000-yard mark last fall. Cory Moore and Mikal Koonce will get the bulk of the



Donald Green, Morgan State

running chores, while Willie Cooper, Shawn Banks, and Chris Brown are solid linemen. The major question for Wyatt is at quarterback. Sophomore Larry Jones started one game and had a good spring, but the coaches are expecting big things from incoming freshman and Daytona Beach native Ike Hall.

The Wildcats finished second to Hampton in the MEAC in total defense. They have two of the league's better linebackers in juniors Antron Wright and Terry Doctor, who will be joined by James Souder, a transfer from Boston University. Cornerback Phillip Ellis is the top returning performer in a secondary that was stingy against the pass a year ago.

MORGAN STATE

Once upon a time, a losing football season in Baltimore was about as certain as winter snow in Chicago. But under coach Stump Mitchell and his staff, the tide may be changing.

The chief problem last year was offense. The Bears (3-7) barely scratched out two touchdowns per game. Willie McGirt completed 40 percent of his passes for 1,076 yards and 11 TDs. After the spring, however, Donald Green was No. 1. JC transfer Jerome Hinton will shoulder much of the rushing load, and Anthony Collins is the top receiver. Tackle William Brown heads the offensive line.

The Bears have defensive talent, but not much experience. Albert Brady, Carlos Mitchell, and Larry Tucker will see a lot of time up front. LeVar Patterson, a converted safety, moves to linebacker, where he'll join Donya Mitchell and Brian Schiltz. Safety Charles Fields led the MEAC in interceptions, but the Bears will be young on the corners.

NORTHEAST

Look for the Colonials to win a third straight NEC championship.

BY BILL HELLER

When former New York Jets head coach Joe Walton signed on to begin a football program at Robert Morris College, he couldn't have expected instant success. But in four years, he's gone 30-10-1 and won two straight Northeast Conference titles and ECAC Bowl games.

He'd be happier this year if he had more than half of his starters returning from an 8-3 team which belted MAAC champ Georgetown 35-13 in last year's ECAC Bowl. "I have a lot of rebuilding to do this year," Walton said. Even so, his Colonials remain the team to beat in the NEC.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Rick Sarille,
TB, Wagner

DEFENSE:

John O'Connell,
LB, Robert Morris

NEWCOMER:

Kevin Turner,
DL, Robert Morris

GAME TO WATCH

Robert Morris at
Wagner, October 3

ROBERT MORRIS

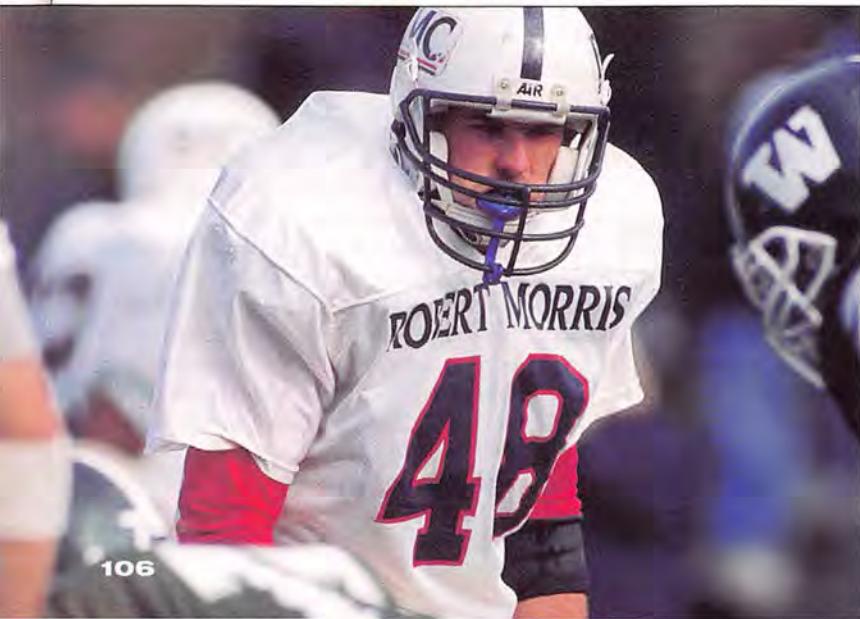
All-NEC tailback Archie Wannamaker rushed for 976 yards with seven touchdowns and caught 14 passes for 184 yards. Senior flanker Fred Parker (25 catches, 8 TDs) is back, but four-year starting quarterback Jake Newman is not. Senior Joe DeMaria is the leading candidate to replace him. Senior center Adam Thermann returns. Antoine Lee, who had a 93-yard kickoff return for a TD, is a threat.

The defense features all-NEC LB John O'Connell (15 sacks). Freshman Kevin Turner joins Eric Hendershot and Brad Kirit up front. The only returnee in the secondary is sophomore Nick Downs.

WAGNER

The Seahawks (6-4) figure to challenge Robert Morris behind All-America running back Rick Sarille, who was fourth in the nation in kickoff returns, sixth in all-purpose running, eighth in rush-

John O'Connell, Robert Morris



ing, and ninth in scoring. He gained 1,285 yards and had 13 of Wagner's 16 rushing TDs. Jeff Skinner and Mike Cerminaro will battle at QB. Sophomores Jason Bain and Chuck Kinsley are the wideouts.

Outside linebacker Daryn Plummer, the NEC defensive newcomer of the year, is back, but three-fourths of the line is gone. The secondary returns its top six, including safety Jason Scholz.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

PREDICTIONS

1. Robert Morris
2. Wagner
3. Central Connecticut
4. Monmouth
5. St. Francis
6. Sacred Heart

Soulder problems didn't prevent Keith Toolan from passing for 1,877 yards and 13 TDs in a 5-5 season. Two of his favorite targets are back: tight end L.T. Brown (33 catches) and split end Mike Griz (32).

The Blue Devils return five regulars from the defense that led the NEC in rushing, pass efficiency, and total yards: junior tackle Steve Konopka (7 sacks), linebackers David Parker and Mike Westerdal, and cornerbacks Damion Baker and Dino Harrison.

MONMOUTH

The Hawks salvaged a winning season (5-4), but lost the NEC player of the year on offense (QB Dan Sabella) and defense (end Jason Gmitter). The good news: All-NEC senior guard Anthony Verdi and senior tight end Dave Monro are back. Tailback Joe Tramutolo and wideout Anthony Galella also return. John DiPasquale steps in at quarterback.

The defense features tackles Tom Zdanowicz and Matt Quinn and junior linebackers Bill Pullen and Mike Normand. Tailbacks Billy Shea and Pat Giminez switch to linebacker and safety, respectively. Punter Darrell Nick, who ranked 24th in the country (40.7), and place-kicker Jeff Varcadipane are assets.

ST. FRANCIS

After an 0-7 start, the Red Flash split their final four games under freshman Jeremy Swords. With 21 regulars returning, they should improve considerably. Swords, who took over midway through his first season, passed for 1,556 yards and nine TDs. Top receivers return: seniors Chad Connors and Sam Campoli. Juniors Tigger Blizzard, Jason Petrusic, and Buddy Verdream head the line.

Strong safety Pat McKenna, free safety Samm Taranto, and cornerback Matt Beck lead a solid secondary. Matt Farabaugh returns at linebacker, but the line has to improve on only nine sacks last fall.

SACRED HEART

After a 1-8 season, the Pioneers are moving up from Division II to I-AA. Leading rusher Terrence Washington (490 yards), tight end Chris Wilkinson, and defensive linemen Greg Nota, Mike Kuchar, and Eric Penney return. Steve Ladd, who saw brief action last fall, inherits the quarterback job. ■

OHIO VALLEY

Look for Eastern Kentucky in the playoffs for a record 18th time.

BY STAN SUTTON

LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

Several Ohio Valley teams, including defending champion Eastern Kentucky, must find new quarterbacks. Therein may lie their fate in the conference race.

Eastern Kentucky retains nine offensive starters after leading the OVC in total offense, rushing offense, and scoring offense, but it is without quarterback Simon Fuentes, who was the co-offensive player of the year in the conference. Mike Simpson's departure leaves Eastern Illinois coach Bob Spoo looking for a new quarterback. Middle Tennessee needs a replacement for Jonathan Quinn, who set seven school passing records. Southeast Missouri State returns nine starters on offense, but none at quarterback. Murray State, which had a two-year-string of OVC titles snapped, keeps Dan Loyd, but he may be pressed by two transfers. Tennessee Tech coach Mike Hennigan keeps 16 starters, but none is a quarterback.

Thus, the trend may be toward running in the league, where Eastern Kentucky has Derick Logan and Corey Crume and Eastern Illinois keeps Justin Lynch and Jabarey McDavid. Middle Tennessee still has its top rusher (LeBrian McGill), as does Southeast Missouri State (Britt Mirgaux).

Roy Kidd begins his 35th season as coach at Eastern Kentucky and Boots Donnelly marks his 20th at Middle Tennessee.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Rondel Menendez,
WR, Eastern Kentucky

DEFENSE:

Chris Watson,
DB, Eastern Illinois

NEWCOMER:

Torin Kirtsey,
RB, Middle Tennessee
State

GAME TO WATCH

Murray State at
Eastern Kentucky,
October 17

EASTERN KENTUCKY

The Colonels went 7-0 in the OVC and 8-4 overall while making the I-AA playoffs for an unprecedented 17th time. The offense, which averaged 396 yards and 34 points a game, is virtually intact. Wide receiver Rondel Menendez, tailback Derick Logan, and linemen Tyrone Hopson and Josh Hunter were all-OVC. Menendez set a school record with 1,137 receiving yards, including 54 catches and nine touchdowns. Logan, who was the 1996 SEC freshman of the year at Kentucky, ran for 849 yards and 11 scores as a Colonel. Sophomore Corey Crume averaged 82 yards a game and scored 13 touchdowns.

Other starters include fullback Jonathan Butler, tight end Tony DeGregorio, tackles Charlie Watkins, and Elliott Henderson, and center Reggie Mytil, who is coming back from a knee injury. Sophomore Waylon Chapman completed 29 of 56 passes in a reserve role. He will be challenged by JC transfer Chad Collins.

Eastern Kentucky has four returning regulars from the OVC's best defensive team, but lost its secondary. That is noteworthy because the Colonels will face Kentucky passing wizard Tim Couch in their second game. The returnees are tackles Justin Ernest and Jason Muchow and linebackers Charles Tinsley and Butch Printup. Former first-team all-OVC safety Scooter Asel returns from a medical-redshirt season.

MURRAY STATE

The Racers finished 7-4 under first-year coach Denver Johnson, who strengthened 11 returning starters with a solid recruiting class.

The defense, ranked second among I-AA teams, is solid across its eight-man front, which specializes in blitzing. Ends Marcus Stepp and Kenneth Knotts are the cornerstones of the unit and tackle Jarrod Webb stabilizes the line. Linebackers Chris Vaughn and Mancell Elam are big-play men who are supplemented by outside backers Gary Humphrey and Gary Wheeler. Defensive backs returning include Chauncey McGee, Rod Thompson, Sebastian Jackson, and Beau Guest.

Guard Jud Carter and quarterback Dan Loyd are the only veteran regulars on offense. While Loyd was playing baseball last spring, former Oklahoma starter Justin Fuente and Texas Tech transfer Shayne Stephens displayed their wares. Tight end Jerome Warren, tailback Wilbert Smith, and wideouts Brandon Warfield and Cliff Branch have experience.

PREDICTIONS

1. Eastern Kentucky
2. Murray State
3. Eastern Illinois
4. Middle Tennessee State
5. Tennessee State
6. Tennessee Tech
7. Southeast Missouri State
8. Tennessee-Martin

EASTERN ILLINOIS

The Panthers lost 14 starters from an 8-3 team that marked the school's fourth straight winning season.

Coach Bob Spoo still has tailbacks Justin Lynch, the No. 2 rusher in the OVC, and Jabarey McDavid, who ranked sixth. Lynch was also the team's top receiver (28 catches). Tight end Seth Willingham caught 26 passes, but Spoo must replace quarterback Mike Simpson with sophomore Jeb Odam or JC transfer Anthony Buich. The line retains tackle Jerrell Smith and guards Ryan Shuff and Scott Brinkerhoff.

The defense is led by cornerback Chris Watson, a first-team OVC pick who had 58 tackles, three interceptions, and averaged 34.1 yards on kickoff returns. Antwan Perry, a second-team all-conference selec-

Rondel Menendez, Eastern Kentucky



OHIO VALLEY

tion, and cornerback Steffan Nicholson rejoin Watson on the unit. There are major gaps in the line and linebacking corps, especially with former starting linebacker Jay Grodecki switching to cornerback. He led the Panthers in tackles and knocked down nine passes.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST.

The Blue Raiders endured only their second losing season since 1980, mostly because of defensive weaknesses. But 20-year coach Boots Donnelly has 18 starters back as he tries to improve upon a 4-6 record. MTSU will move to I-A next fall.

Gone are quarterback Jonathan Quinn, who set seven school passing marks, and tailback LeBrian McGill, the Blue Raiders' top rusher. Junior college refugee Gabe Alaniz may challenge little-used backup Judd Moore. Kelverick Green has a leg up on the tailback spot, but Georgia transfer Torin Kirtsey comes with good credentials. Two other transfers, linebacker Nathan Havens and defensive back Gino Henderson, could help.

Tight end Gary Davis and wideouts Matt Davis and Tri Heard are solid. The offensive line is intact with Barry Hall and Kevin Richer at tackle, Konrad Kaul and Andrew McDonald at guard, and Mat Norwood at center.

Linebackers Clay Griffin, Keith Pauldo, and Eugene Shaw return, as do defensive linemen Lebron Elder, Jacob Sorrells, Martez Phelps, and Mal Waldrep, and backs Darrell Love, Cedric Stegall, and Charlie Walker.

Josh Harris, Tennessee Tech



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TENNESSEE STATE

The Tigers are coming off back-to-back 4-7 seasons with 15 returning starters, including the entire offensive backfield and standout wide receiver Tyrone Butterfield. A Michigan transfer, Butterfield led the OVC with 59 catches for 1,053 yards and was the league's best in kickoff returns (25-yard average) and all-purpose yardage. He scored eight touchdowns.

Former Pitt quarterback Leon Murray passed for 2,209 yards and 16 TDs. Receiver Corey Sullivan returns with fullback Arcentae Broome and tailback Calvin Davenport. Shawn Thompson and Bennie Anderson are back on the line.

Third-year coach L.C. Cole seeks to improve a defense that allowed 30 points a game, and he believes better conditioning is critical. Tennessee State gave up big plays in the fourth quarter to four teams. End Lamar Carter (8 sacks) returns from a broken leg and rejoins veterans Eric McCray and Larry Floyd up front. The linebacking corps is solid with Armand Williams and Brent Sterling. Darrell Hinton and Jerrick Hillery return to the secondary.

TENNESSEE TECH

The Golden Eagles are led by wide receiver Walter Hill, who had 55 catches for 808 yards as a sophomore. He is among nine starters returning on offense from a 6-5 team that went 4-3 in the OVC. Other receivers include Tadarrell Scott, Brian Jackson, and tight end Brad Taylor.

Sophomore Michal Peeples will compete with redshirt freshman Tony Racoppi and newcomer Grant Swallows at quarterback. T.J. Christian returns at fullback, backed up by Jason Staples. Sophomore Jerome Tillman is set at tailback with Brant Billen in reserve. Tackle Wes Gallagher is the hub of a veteran line that includes tackle Andrew McGraw, guards Mark Williams and Brian Wolfe, and center Gabe Teeple.

Defensive end Branon Vaughn (8 sacks) and tackle Eddie Arnell were first-team all-OVC. They join tackle Josh Harris and end Jerry Turner up front. Chad Evitts and Jeff Hunnicutt return at linebacker, which gets a boost from junior college transfer Gabe Villarreal and redshirt freshman Jordan Holbrook. Josh Symonette was in on 100 tackles in a secondary that also includes Corey Chamblin, Virgil Kirkland, and Reggie Knighten.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ST.

The loss of All-America Angel Rubio at defensive tackle complicates SEMO's attempt to improve upon its 4-7 record. The defense lost six starters but retained linemen Troy Baglio and Marcus Mclellan. Brad Richardson, Joel Becker, Jay Eckert, and converted offensive lineman Cornelius Jackson will compete for the other spots.

Gabe Jenkins, Kevin Meachem, and Terrance Sterling, a starter in 1996 but injured last season, will play linebacker. Fred Hambrick is the standout in a secondary that also includes John Smith.

The Indians retain nine starters on offense, including the entire line. Mitch Fryer was an all-conference tight end and guard Jessie Eaton and center Chris Kiefer are strong inside. Fullback Britt Mirgaux, the school's top rusher the past two seasons, will be paired with taibacks K.D. Koleosho and Corey Williams. The wide receivers include Dante Bryant (43 catches), Leslie Weaver, and Marcus McKinley. Quarterback is a battle among letterman Jeff Shaw, redshirt freshman Bob Brune, and JC transfer Kevin Seto.

TENNESSEE-MARTIN

Some 60 first-year players began first-year coach Jim Marshall's rebuilding program in 1997, when the Skyhawks went 1-10. This year's team has 15 returning starters.

More help will be needed from newcomers, but sophomore Brock Bailey will be in his second year at quarterback and classmate Jermaine Hampton should be the top rusher. Brent Hamrick is set at fullback.

The receivers are led by Brian Webb (41 catches) and Wesley Moore, who began last season as the starting quarterback before being moved to defensive back and wide receiver. The offensive line features Patrick Allen, Jack Slaughter, Rodney Swearingen, and Charlie Goodey.

Seven starters return to the defense, which allowed more than 400 yards a game. Junior college transfer Keythric Merriweather should help at linebacker. Southwestern Louisiana transfer Lamar Dunn should boost the secondary, which returns Joe Daniels and J.D. McWilliams. Jeff Sherrill is expected to move from defensive back to linebacker and Tavares Newsome, the Skyhawks' leading tackler, will move from linebacker to safety. Terrence Lawless, returning from an injury, rejoins Brian Bradshaw on the line.

PATRIOT LEAGUE

Look for Colgate and Bucknell to play for the championship again.

BY ED LAUBACH

EASTON EXPRESS-TIMES

Coach Dick Biddle, an assistant under Fred Dunlap 20 years ago, reversed a decade-long football funk at Colgate, which should reap the recruiting benefits of being the Patriot League's first team ever to receive an automatic bid to the I-AA playoffs.

Three first-team all-Patriot players return to the league's most productive offense, including two-time player of the year Ryan Vena at quarterback and two-time all-leaguer Corey Hill, who needs 41 catches to become Colgate's all-time leading receiver. The other is league rookie of the year Ed Weiss, one of two 1,000-yard Raider rushers last fall.

Colgate took its lumps from a difficult non-league schedule. Richmond, Army, and Navy served to prepare the Red Raiders for their final regular-season game against undefeated Bucknell with the league championship on the line. Colgate buried Bucknell 48-14 in a mud pit at Andy Kerr Stadium, avenging a one-point overtime loss at Bucknell for the league title the previous year.

Look for Colgate and Bucknell to play for the championship again. Instead of the season coming down to a dramatic final game, the clubs hook up on Halloween in Lewisburg. Everyone else will play for third place.

PREDICTIONS

1. Colgate
2. Bucknell
3. Lehigh
4. Lafayette
5. Holy Cross
6. Fordham
7. Towson

team all-league selection.

The defense and special teams also return a pair of second-team all-league players in tackle Neal Gomez and Erich Kutschke, who punted 42 times for a 39-yard average. Sophomore John Costantino is a player to watch in the revamped linebacker corps. A veteran secondary is bolstered by the return of senior free safety Tom McCarroll from injury. Junior Jesse Boyd was the best punt returner in the league (12-yard average) and 17th-best in the country.

BUCKNELL

The Bison endured a string of four losing seasons until the hiring of Tom Gadd, who knows how to win in the Patriot League (13-3 in three seasons). Bucknell led the league in total defense for the third consecutive year. The unit was ninth in the country with a +1.09 per-game turnover ratio.

If Gadd can shore up his defensive line and linebacking, the Bison should resume their winning ways—helped along by a soft early schedule against the likes of Duquesne and St. Mary's of California. The Bison lost their top three tacklers, but nose guard Eric Green started every game last fall, as did outside linebacker Tom Farrell. Shawn Redd, a transfer from Boston University, where he was the free safety, is moving to outside linebacker. An experienced secondary is led by cornerback Nate Musselman, who led the league with seven interceptions.

Four standouts return to a veteran offense: wideout Ronnie Rockett, center Neal Thompson, tackle Jason Wancowicz, and place-kicker Ross Coleman. Don McDowell is the incumbent quarterback. A cool customer (and the catcher on the baseball team), he led the Bison to seven close victories. Rockett and Ardie Kissinger accounted for over half of the team's receiving yards. Jeremy Myers is a tough fullback, which should help as 5-7 LaMario Bradwell takes over at tailback.

Nate Musselman, Bucknell



TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Ryan Vena,
QB, Colgate

DEFENSE:

John Green,
NG, Lafayette

NEWCOMER:

Shawn Redd,
LB, Bucknell

GAMES TO WATCH

Colgate at Bucknell,
October 31

Colgate at Lehigh,
November 7

Bucknell at Lehigh,
November 14

Lehigh at Lafayette,
November 21

COLGATE

Coach Dick Biddle need only square away his defensive line and linebackers and groom a place-kicker in order to repeat as Patriot League champs. He has time to accomplish his tasks since five league games fall at the end of the schedule. Three starters return in the secondary, the offensive line has been intact for three seasons, the skill positions are a go, overall team speed is improved, and the Red Raiders run deep at most positions.

Colgate begins with Ryan Vena-to-Corey Hill. Now a junior, Vena has led Colgate to victory in 13 of 18 games, including the championship meeting with Bucknell last November in which he passed for three touchdowns and ran for a fourth. He has thrown a TD pass in 17 consecutive games. For the season, Vena passed for 1,882 yards and 17 TDs. Hill was the league's leading receiver, with 69 catches and 10 TDs. He's caught a pass in 31 consecutive games.

Guard Luke George and center Paul Clasby anchor a veteran line that thrives on run-blocking and, in general, manhandled its league foes. Colgate scored a total of 105 points on successive weekends against Lehigh and Lafayette, teams that figure to fight for third place this fall. Sophomore running back Ed Weiss should get more than 178 carries with the graduation of 1,000-yard teammate Daymon Smith. Tight end Ernie Quackenbush was a second-

PATRIOT LEAGUE

LEHIGH

The Mountain Hawks have had the Patriot League's No. 1 passing game nine years in a row. Quarterback Phil Stambaugh is coming off the best sophomore season in Lehigh history (2,586 yards and 23 TDs). In fact, of all sophomores in I-AA, only Villanova's Chris Boden threw for more yards. Stambaugh will be dropping balls into familiar hands. Split end Deron Braswell, with 2,337 yards, is fifth on Lehigh's career chart. Flankers Kody Fedorcha and Joe Falzone combined for 100 receptions. Brian Baker, whose career has been split between wideout and tailback, is back running the ball following the graduation of Rabih Abdullah, Lehigh's all-time rushing leader. The offensive line is rebuilding around guard Rich Bodnar, the lone returning starter.

The Mountain Hawks should be improved defensively after finishing worst in the league in points allowed (29.6). Tackle David Merrifield and end Nick Martucci are four-year regulars. Coach Kevin Higgins has holes to fill in the line and at linebacker around Ian Eason, who had over 100 tackles for the second straight year. The secondary is intact with corners Kevin Joseph and Saundrell Davison and safeties Caliphe Buchanan and Sam Brinley.

While Lehigh was unable to win back-to-back games last fall, it was able to close out the season with its third consecutive victory over archrival Lafayette.

LAFAYETTE

The Leopards were given an early wakeup call last year, a 23-0 thumping at home from Fordham in their opening game. Lafayette had lost only once to the Rams in 15 previous games. The rude awakening also let coach Bill Russo know that his defense wasn't going to be as good as advertised. The Leopards finished sixth in the Patriot League in total defense and points allowed. That prompted a switch from a 5-2 alignment to a 4-3.

The new linemen are John Green, the preseason defensive player of the year, on the nose, and converted offensive guard Brian Coughlan and Andy Zabinski at tackle. Green was all-league last fall. Chad Williamson, Tim Case, and Jerome Williams are in the rotation. The Leopards lost most of their linebackers, including Dan Bengele, the league's

defensive player of the year. The new unit is built around Ryan Hiles, the lone returning regular. A solid secondary features corner Jamie Wisloski and safeties Brian Tuma and Angel Colon.

Scoring points should not be a problem with the return of 10 starters, including quarterback Mike Palos, tailback Leonard Moore, and a line anchored by all-league center Damian Wroblewski. Joe Luke and Barrett Hammons return at flanker after a one-year absence. Brian Menecola begins his fourth year as the place-kicker.

HOLY CROSS

The loss of three 1,000-yard run-and-shoot receivers is partially offset by a fifth year of eligibility granted by the NCAA to tailback J.R. Walz, the Crusaders' top rusher for three straight seasons. Walz suffered a season-ending ankle injury early last fall. He finds serious competition at his position in Joe Chambers and John Aloisi, who last year rushed for 100 yards in the same game. Still, the Crusaders were the league's worst rushing team.

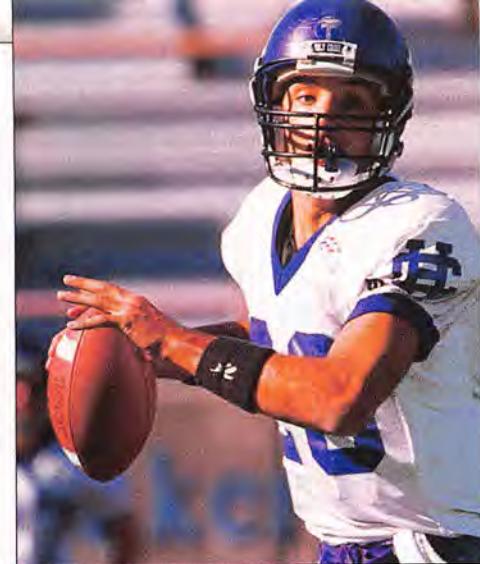
Dan Boland will try to keep things moving in the air, looking for all-Patriot League choice Bobby Andrews (48 catches), the most productive tight end in Holy Cross history. A veteran line is led by guard Patrick Quay, who started all 11 games last year as a freshman.

Coach Dan Allen needs help in the defensive line and secondary. Sophomore David Puloka started the last five games, and Matt Doran and Joe Saunders provide experience at linebacker. Captain and strong safety Barrett Doxsey is the lone veteran defensive back. Joe Repshis, one of the team's best athletes, is ready to give Allen double duty as punter and free safety. Dana Fatarone was second in the league in place-kicking after earning the all-league choice in '96.

FORDHAM

The Rams' third-place finish, their best ever in the Patriot League, was tempered by a change at the top: Coach Nick Quartaro's resignation after three seasons and the arrival of Ken O'Keefe from Allegheny College.

O'Keefe is retaining the run-and-shoot with perhaps slightly more emphasis on the run to showcase shifty tailback Jon Carroll. The Rams, last in total offense, aren't helped by the loss of five of their top six receivers and three starting line-



Dan Boland, Holy Cross

men. The new line features veteran tackles Jason Rossi and Andrew Green. The top returning wideout is Gerry McDermott, who missed two games with a knee injury. Steve O'Hare won the quarterback job in November, when he led the Rams to victories over Towson, Georgetown, and Holy Cross.

The Rams led the league in pass defense and were second in total defense. Eight regulars lead the way, including all-league cornerback Shane McAndrew and end Mike Shelley, a four-year starter.

TOWSON

The Tigers' inaugural season as a Patriot League member resulted in an 0-6 record and a learning experience. Depth is lacking and both lines need to be bigger and stronger.

"We learned this season that by the sixth or seventh game you start to get beat up, which is why depth is so important," coach Gordy Combs said. The Tigers have only one league game after October 17. "We know it's going to take us a couple of recruiting classes before we begin to fit in. I also believe we ran into an inspired group of opponents. Once the Patriot League got an automatic bid to the I-AA playoffs, the stampede was on. Our goal is to run with the herd instead of getting trampled by it."

Towson was No. 2 in the league in stopping the run, allowing 137.6 yards. Four of the team's top five tacklers are gone, leaving behind ends Eric Erhardt and Andy Hollingsworth, who combined for 21 tackles for loss, including nine sacks. Two all-league players return in cornerback Jabari Garrett and tailback Jason Corle, who rushed for 1,075 yards and became the first player to lead the Tigers in rushing and receiving.

PIONEER LEAGUE

Surprising San Diego will streak all the way to the top of the PFL.

BY PAUL JANKOWSKI

THE TIMES OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

The Pioneer Football League lost one of its six teams in March when Evansville dropped out, saying it could not compete at the I-AA non-scholarship level. Other than rumblings from a few alumni and a minor protest by the players, a program that had been in place most of this century was dissolved with little fanfare.

Dayton has won four of the five titles since the league was established in 1993. Look for surprising San Diego to compete for the title when it hosts Dayton in the PFL finale.

PREDICTIONS

1. San Diego
2. Dayton
3. Drake
4. Valparaiso
5. Butler

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Mike Stadler,
QB, San Diego

DEFENSE:

Mike Glassmeyer,
NG, Dayton

NEWCOMER:

Ric Edgcomb,
DT, Valparaiso

GAME TO WATCH

Dayton at San Diego,
October 31

SAN DIEGO

The high-scoring Toreros racked up more than 50 points three times last fall. The man responsible had been behind home plate the year before while playing in the San Diego Padres' organization. Mike Stadler decided baseball wasn't for him, and the quarterback soon realized football may be the way to go.

Stadler passed for 2,287 yards and a school-record 30 touchdowns as the Toreros averaged 33.5 points per game. Receivers Dylan Ching (48-915-12 TDs) and Jeff Prichard (52-630-11) are back, along with sophomore Joe Hampton. Senior center Aaron Garrison leads a veteran line.

Coach Kevin McGarry opens his third season with 16 regulars back, including defensive end Lukas Smart and cornerback Kaeo Gouveia. Lineman D.J. Walcott also returns, along with senior linebacker Kerry Peoples and cornerback Elton Perkins.

DAYTON

Coach Mike Kelly lost a lot of talent from last year's 5-0 league champs, a team that had the nation's longest winning streak (20 games) snapped in the season finale at Cal Poly SLO. The task of replacing quarterback Kevin Johns will fall to Ben Mercer.

Kelly has not lost more than two games in a season since 1987. Right guard Jay Fullencamp is the only offensive lineman back. Moving up to join him are tackles Rick Hardesty and Paul Conradson, center Rob Schieber, and guard Bob Sobehart. They'll be opening holes for tailbacks Chad Lindsey and J.P. Ragon and fullback Jacob Jones.

Nose guard Mike Glassmeyer could become the PFL defensive player of the year. Undersized (6-1, 219), he draws more than one blocker and tends to make his way into opposing backfields. He rejoins second-team all-PFL strong safety Mark Thobe and linebacker Jacob Parsell.

DRAKE

Drake returns the best trio of skill players in the league. Senior running back Jason Grove, a four-year starter for coach Rob Ash, was second to Evansville's Sean Bennett with 1,374 yards rushing and is on track to become the school's all-time leader. Junior quarterback Solon Bell threw for 1,264 yards and seven TDs. Senior wide receiver Geoff Boyer averaged 12.7 yards a catch. They will

work behind a line that lost three fifth-year starters, including Felix Gallagher.

Stingy defense has been a Drake trademark. Seven regulars return to the unit that yielded just 14.4 points per game: junior linebackers Jake Wilson, James Makris, and Luke Gansen, safety Mike Gallagher, corners Noah Joseph and Jamie Marshall, and nose guard James Skarlis.

VALPARAISO

The Crusaders' sophomore- and junior-dominated squad was a disappointing 3-7 overall, but coach Tom Horne is optimistic his club can challenge the PFL's elite this season.

Center Eric Rodbro will be starting for a fourth season. He rejoins big Nathan Kline (6-6, 294) and bigger Michael Meeks (6-6, 299), along with Ron Brown and Steve Gresh up front. Receivers Eric Zodrow, Alex English, and Cauis Swopes are back. Junior Andy Huegli earned the starting quarterback job in the spring, and 5-6 sophomore tailback Steve Clancy was Valpo's most exciting player.

Defensively, the Crusaders must improve to move up in the standings. The line is intact with Ray Cirks, Jim Schroeder, Jon Wrench, and Franco Francese, while Valpo High recruit Ric Edgcomb could contend for a starting job. Jim Rashid is the only returning linebacker, while Ray Hiller, Brian Cust, and Eric Kenesie return in the backfield.

BUTLER

Coach Ken LaRose led Butler to a 6-4 mark, its best since tying Dayton for the PFL title in 1994.

The Bulldogs are set offensively with senior tailback Naim Sanders, who ranks sixth on Butler's all-time rushing list (2,503 yards). Four starters return on the line, led by all-conference center Nick Batalis, as well as leading receiver Adam Timm, tight end Jeremy Harkin, and fullback Lucas Marrs. Quarterback, however, is a question mark. The leading candidate for the position is senior Kevin Lyster, who played in eight games as a sophomore but none last fall.

LaRose must return nine defensive regulars. Linebacker Kevin Ward had a team-high 161 tackles. He and junior cornerback Jason Craney are the only returning regulars from a unit that gave up just 19.6 points a game. End Mike Goletz and linebacker Jason Reed saw action in all 10 games last year, and backs Todd Huff and Steve Hall played a lot before suffering injuries.

SOUTHERN

Georgia Southern remains the favorite to wear the SC crown.

BY STAN OLSON
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

O.K., guys, who gets to lose to Youngstown State in the I-AA playoffs this year? This time, maybe no one. The Southern Conference is among the strongest in Division I-AA. Georgia Southern looks good enough to win the national championship. For now, the league's goal is to get a few more schools back into the playoffs. In the past, Marshall had the closest thing in the division to an automatic bid. Each year we would spend the fall trying to predict who would make it besides the Thundering Herd. The league received three bids in 1995 and '96.

But in 1997, after the Herd finally thundered off into the I-A sunset, nobody stepped up other than league champ Georgia Southern. The rest of the SC spent the season beating each other up, and no other team finished with a better record than 7-4.

Despite the Eagles' dominance last season, don't expect them to coast to the conference crown. Furman, East Tennessee State, and Appalachian State all have the tools to catch them if things break right, which should make it an interesting fall. And a stable one. The NCAA's usual game of musical coaches skipped the Southern entirely this season after planting new faces at four schools last year.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:
Stephon Hawkins,
WR, Chattanooga

DEFENSE:
Eric Johnson,
DB, Western Carolina

NEWCOMER:
Jamar Jones,
LB, Georgia Southern

GAMES TO WATCH

Appalachian State at
East Tennessee State,
September 12

Furman at
Appalachian State,
October 10

East Tennessee State
at Georgia Southern,
October 31

Georgia Southern at
Furman,
November 7

The Citadel at VMI,
November 14

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Paul Johnson took over the program after an atypical 4-7 record in 1996 and coaxed his first team to a 10-3 mark, a 33-point scoring average, and an SC championship. Fans, remembering the Eagles' four I-AA national titles, want more.

Quarterback Greg Hill piled up 1,552 yards of total offense as a sophomore but will be pushed by redshirt freshmen J.R. Revere and Andre Weathers. The offense—which returns nine starters—features a deep line anchored by all-SC juniors Mark Williams and Rich McGrath. Senior Jevon Sullivan and redshirt freshman Adrian Peterson will try to replace all-star fullback Roderick Russell (1,399 yards). Johnson has a multitude of riches at slotback, led by senior Corey Joyner (32 catches), and experience at wide receiver, but the Eagles thrive on the ground.

The defense allowed just 98 points in SC games and shut out opponents in 26 of 52 quarters. But the unit lost three linebackers. Sophomore Daryl Morell returns, as does junior all-SC tackle Voncellies Allen, but keep an eye on redshirt freshman Jamar Jones, who has been shifted to linebacker from end. The secondary is solid, and includes the team's best name in cornerback Earthwind Moreland.

The Eagles, bolstered by a strong recruiting year, are good enough to win the league, and maybe top off the season with another title ring—one for the thumb.

FURMAN

Furman stumbled to a tie for third in the SC with a 5-3 mark, finishing 7-4 overall. The slide was caused in part by the early, season-ending injury to quarterback Chris Jonas, leaving coach Bobby Johnson without an experienced hand to run things.

Because of that, though, freshman Brent Rickman got valuable experience, passing for 943 yards and seven TDs. He yielded to redshirt freshman Justin Hill, a better runner, late in the season. The entire offense looks good, with nine starters returning. Senior Ernest Crosby gobbled up 681 rushing yards and sophomore Derek Russell is solid at fullback. Junior Desmond Kitchings has 4.31 speed and made 30 catches last season. The deep line is headed by all-SC senior center Mark Foster.

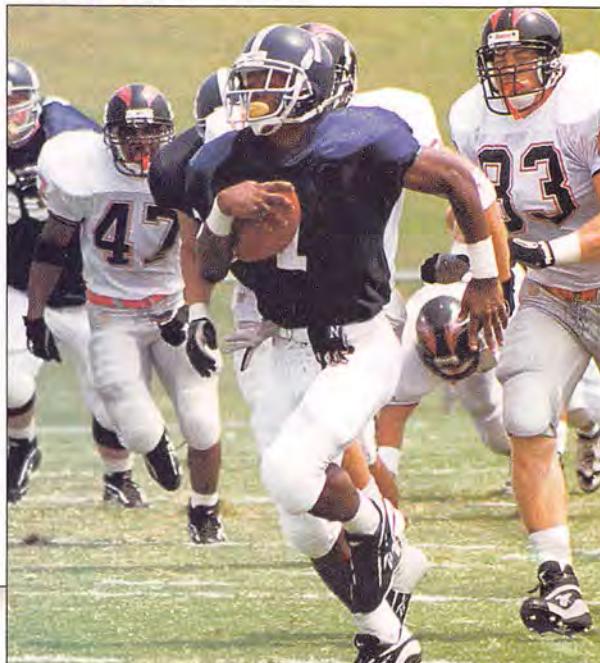
The Paladins' questions come on a defense missing eight starters, including pass rusher Bryan Dailer (35.5 career sacks). The line boasts just one senior, B.J. Pate, and he missed the last four games with an injury. The best of the bunch, though, is back: senior Orlando Ruff, who had 140 tackles and three interceptions. The secondary lost three-time all-SC safety Jeremy Osborne but retained Andre Stroman and John Keith.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE

The Bucs will try for three straight winning seasons, something they have not accomplished in more than 40 years. It won't be easy, not with the loss of 10 starters from their 7-4 squad—including the league's offensive and defensive players of the year—and facing a schedule that includes games at Miami and at Mississippi State.

The best news is that fullback Brian Edwards, the school's all-time leading rusher (2,422 yards) isn't out of eligibility after all, having regained a year

Corey Joyner, Georgia Southern



under an NCAA ruling. He'll team with tailback Brandon Walker again. SC rookie of the year Todd Wells returns at quarterback. He led the league in total offense (251.2) and passing efficiency (155.48). Seven offensive starters return, but the Bucs lost the league's top receiver. The wideout to watch is 5-6, 155-pound sophomore Terrance Sims, who runs a 4.3. The line is sturdy and experienced.

Only five regulars return on defense, and Hamilton is adjusting from a 5-2 to a 4-3 to make things simpler for his young unit. The line in particular will be inexperienced, but junior end Blakely Kendall has shown potential.

APPALACHIAN STATE

Tenth-year coach Jerry Moore they needs an experienced quarterback to go with his other offensive riches. David Reaves is the early leader.

There is a lot to work with. Nine regulars return on offense, and an outstanding line is bolstered by the comeback of 1996 All-America tackle Shawn Clark, a medical redshirt in 1997. All-SC tight end Frank Leatherwood (36 catches) is back, as is all-SC guard Tony Bequette and yet another all-league pick, flanker Joey Gibson (46 catches). The defense retained six starters, including linebackers Joey Hall and Joe Best. But the heart of the unit is junior end Rocky Hunt (5 sacks).

Appalachian, as usual, is solid on special teams. Chris Barden made all nine of his field goal attempts last season, and L.J. Brooks is always a threat to break a return.

The Mountaineers have finished in the top half of the league for 13 straight seasons. This fall, they'll make it 14.

CHATTANOOGA

After patching together records of 3-8, 4-7, and 3-8 in his first three tries, Mocs coach Buddy Green began to get it right last fall, finishing 7-4 overall and 4-4 in the league. Green's guys have four goals they set before every season: a winning record, the SC title, a playoff berth, and the national crown. Green thinks two or three of those goals could fall this year.

The offense, which sparkled at times behind Brian Hampton (2,089 passing yards), should be more experienced this season. Hampton has exciting all-SC wideout Stefon Hawkins (45 catches for 885 yards) to throw to, as well as a short passing game installed by new offensive coordinator Rich Draganac. The ground

game, however, averaged just 102 yards.

The defense was fierce (15 fumble recoveries) but erratic last season. Keith Blanks was shifted to the offensive line, leaving a 285-pound hole at nose guard. There could be problems if all-league linebacker David Damon (111 tackles), who was suspended through the spring, remains ineligible in the fall.

THE CITADEL

The Bulldogs will open their season at Florida, playing in the dreaded "Swamp" while being led by a quarterback who has never taken a college snap. It could get ugly early.

The quarterback, redshirt freshman Chris Eckert, is being forced into action because three-year starter Stanley Myers was planning to skip his final year of eligibility in order to attend law school. Coach Don Powers is hoping Eckert can inject some juice into The Citadel's moribund multiple-I offense, which managed a meager 165 points in last year's 6-5 effort. Worse, in five games, the Bulldogs failed to hit double figures.

Speedy junior Carlos Frank had three punt-return touchdowns. The coaches have him at wideout because they want him to touch the ball at least 10 times a game. Another plus is the return of Antonio Smith, who was leading the SC in rushing before being injured. He'll run behind a solid line that includes tackle David Jacobs.

The defense, which returns six starters, was the key to the Bulldogs' 3-0 finish, allowing a total of 12 points in that stretch. Dary Myricks, moving from end to tackle, has All-America potential. Dean Kelley returns at linebacker and all-SC pick Chris Webb in the secondary.

WESTERN CAROLINA

The Catamounts (3-8), will be nobody's pushover. That's because Western has suddenly become a home for transferring quarterbacks.

Tennessee transfer Shawn Snyder pushed himself into the starting lineup midway through last season. He'll be pressured by Illinois transfer Justin Cella. Fullback Brad Hoover and tailback Tracy Biggs each averaged at least five yards a carry. They'll run behind a line that is anchored by a genuine NFL prospect in 6-5, 305-pound senior tackle Dan Best, who was shifted to offense last fall after two years on defense. If the offense has a problem, it's a lack of experience at wide receiver.

The defense returns seven players. Senior free safety Eric Johnson led the team with 128 tackles, hits like a battering ram, and could be a first-team All-America this season. Expect improvement in Cullowhee, especially if redshirt freshman tackle Antonio Dyson is as good as advertised.

WOFFORD

The Terriers were better than their 3-7 record (2-6 in the SC) appeared in their first try in the league. Five of those conference losses came by a total of 17 points, and in four, opponents scored on their final drive to win. Wofford was playing with a short deck, having lost three defensive starters and its quarterback to season-ending injuries.

Coach Mike Ayers wants to diversify an offense that gained 87.7 percent of its yards on the ground a year ago. That could be tough since there is no experience at quarterback. Senior Bryan Davis was taken down in the third game by a torn ACL. Since he was still limited in spring practice, junior Ricky Hagood and sophomore Allen Thompson shared the job. Fullback Miles Lane is the top returning rusher (598 yards). The line is experienced, with three senior starters.

The secondary keys a defense that returns seven regulars. Tony Young tied for the league lead with four interceptions and is an outstanding punt returner. Joe Werner is an all-SC candidate at OLB, and ILB Ben Dae is solid as well. The line, though, must replace both tackles.

VIRGINIA MILITARY

Last season, VMI finished 0-11, winless for the first time since 1969. The Keydets scored a league-low (by far) 93 points and surrendered a league-high (by far) 384. Second-year coach Ted Cain signed his largest recruiting class (29 players) in school history.

Help was needed. Only 13 regulars return, so some of the new guys will be pressed into service early. Redshirt sophomore Robbie Chenault replaces the departed Al Lester at quarterback. He'll get to throw—Cain likes to air it out—and his favorite target should be sophomore Richard Holland (37 receptions in '97). Jason White returns at fullback, but replacements must be found at tailback, tight end, and three line spots.

The defense, which surrendered a whopping 428.2 yards a game last fall, is led by senior end Jordan Clark (7 sacks). ■

SOUTHLAND

Northwestern State and McNeese State battle for the top.

BY BILL SMITH

Set the VCR and tune the satellite dish for Saturday, October 17, when Northwestern State hosts McNeese State. There is the potential for a clear-cut title game in the Southland Football League because only those two teams appear to have the complete package in 1998. That's unusual in the SFL, where parity among some of the nation's leading I-AA programs is the rule. Last year's co-champions, the national runner-up MSU Cowboys and the playoff participant NSU Demons, return balanced teams. Everyone else in the Southland has a notable weakness for the top two teams to exploit.

Still, the SFL does strange things to its favorites. Last season, Troy State looked ready to defend its 1996 title, only to crash to a shocking 2-5 league mark (5-6 overall). The same fate could befall the Cowboys or Demons, particularly if Stephen F. Austin finds a defense or Southwest Texas matures.

The Lumberjacks learned the hard way that third place in the conference is not worth anything to the I-AA playoff-selection committee. Despite a solid 8-3 record (5-2 in the league), an unfortunate loss at Sam Houston kept Stephen F. Austin at home. This season, it appears Nicholls State or Troy State could get the role of best team left home as the league's third-place finisher.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Ronnie Powell,
TB, Northwestern St.

DEFENSE:

Charles Ayro,
LB, McNeese State

NEWCOMER:

Brock Nutter,
QB, Troy State

GAMES TO WATCH

McNeese State at
Northwestern State,
October 15

McNeese State at
Troy State,
November 14

Northwestern State at
Stephen F. Austin,
November 21

MCNEESE STATE

Bobby Keasler has seen the I-AA national championship game from both sides. He was one of the top assistants with Northeast Louisiana when it rallied to upset Marshall in 1987. Last year's title game left him one point away from his own crown as a head coach with a 10-9 loss to Youngstown State. Returning more firepower than any other SFL team, the Cowboys (13-2) want it all.

That starts with a No. 1 national ranking, which the Cowboys should earn thanks to the return of 16 starters, led by the SFL's premier quarterback, Blake Prejean, and tailback, William Davis. Prejean led the SFL with a 131.7 efficiency rating and was second in total offense with 201.5 yards a game. With 1,310 yards, Davis is the top returning back. Pittsburgh transfer Melvin Porter should help ease the loss of the three starting receivers. Senior All-America tackle Reggie Nelson anchors a I-A-sized line that returns four starters over 300 pounds.

All-Americas Charles Ayro at linebacker and Blair Bradley are the best of nine starters back on a defense that also includes junior linebacker Ronnie McZeal, strong safety Anthony Porter, and corners Jerod Jones, and Delphfrine Lee.

One problem the Cowboys face in 1998 is their schedule, which puts them on the road against Northwestern State and Troy State.

NORTHWESTERN STATE

Coach Sam Goodwin's only league loss was a 50-7 humiliation at co-champion McNeese State. His first appearance in the playoffs since 1988 was a 2,000-mile road trip to lose 40-10 at Eastern Washington. The Demons play McNeese at home this time on October 17. They boosted their schedule by adding I-A Southern Miss and Missouri along with 12-1 SWAC champion Southern University.

Winning the SFL title and playing host in the playoffs are tall orders. The Demons return 14 starters from an 8-4 team. A strong defense is helped by end Robert Daniel, who is back from knee surgery to join Jason Miller as an imposing set of bookends.

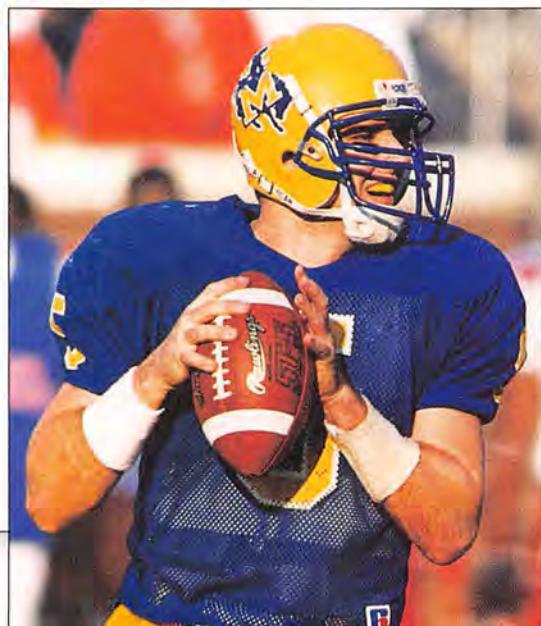
LaDann Thomas and the team leader in tackles for loss, Jake Michel, return at linebacker. In a league filled with passing offenses, NSU has two of the best defensive backs in all-SFL corner Jermaine Jones and free safety Kenny Wright.

Injuries robbed the offense of consistency and graduation took six starters, including receiver Pat Palmer and tight end Damian Johnson. Goodwin signed three JC transfers: tackle Shane Gleason and guard Chuck Robertson from Gulf Coast and tackle Brian Whaley from Jones CC. He'll need them to protect his two quarterbacks: incumbent senior Warren Patterson (2,424 yards, 17 TDs) and Northeast Louisiana transfer Bo Meeks, who threw for 345 yards in the spring game. Explosive senior tailback Ronnie Powell, who had three 200-yard games, is joined by redshirt senior Brian Jacquet, who broke his leg in last season's opener.

TROY STATE

The Alabama version of the Trojan horse is headless. Coach Larry Blakeney faces this fall with a pair of solid lines but few experienced players in the skill positions. Three seniors anchor the offensive line: tackles Cleve Roberts and Jim Byerly and center Leonard Shaughnessy. A pair of SEC sophomore trans-

Blake Prejean, McNeese State



fers, Matt Armbruster (Kentucky) and Blake Caruthers (Auburn), add depth.

The question is, whom will they block for? Leading rusher Joe Jackson is gone, and quarterback is vacant after Adam Russell quit and Marenophilyaw moved to wide receiver. Blakeney will turn to red-shirt freshman Brock Nutter, who threw for over 3,600 yards and 29 TDs at nearby Hoover (AL) and has the edge on junior Jon Peters and sophomore Ben Blackmon. Quarterback development will determine how far TSU goes in turning around a seventh-place (5-6 overall) finish.

Defense kept Troy in games last year. Three of its five SFL losses were by a combined six points. Senior linebacker Marcus Spriggs and junior Anthony Rabb led TSU in tackles. Middle man Rabb has late-season starter Nick Colbert at his side along with junior Damion Williams. Of four defensive starters, the major loss was cornerback Clifford Ivory. Senior Julius Terrell returns after knee reconstruction to try to replace Ivory.

NICHOLLS STATE

The Colonels went from winless in 1995 to the playoffs in 1996. Everyone saw them coming and prepared accordingly. Coach Darren Barbier's young team returns eight starters on each side of the ball and learned one important lesson last fall: It's one thing to arrive; it's quite another to stay. Nicholls has one of the better receiver corps, paced by senior Julius Alcee (57 catches for 912 yards), who led the SFL in receptions per game. Crucial to NSU's return to the sunny side of .500 is the improvement of quarterback Brad Zeller. He had a low efficiency mark, thanks in part to more interceptions (8) than touchdowns (6).

Senior defensive end Murphy Edwards, who led the team in sacks, and linebacker Sean Johnson provide a good starting point for Barbier. Improvement by the offense, which was shut out twice and had just one score in a third game, is vital, but the defense needs to cut back on the 21.6-point average it gave up last fall.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Coach John Pearce must replace almost his entire defense. The front seven is gone from the team that came within one game of the Southland title. Only three regulars return: corner Rodney Brown, strong safety Perry Eliano, and free safety Brandon North—and the secondary isn't exactly where a

coach starts his rebuilding project.

Pearce feels he has the players to replace the lost talent, but his job would have been much easier had two-time All-America linebacker Jeremiah Trotter not opted out for the NFL draft. Kevin Reynolds and Jake Locklear will hold the line with a pair of I-A transfers: Jim Plunk (Arkansas) and Brian Sullivan (Houston). Junior Taylor Thibodeaux is the middle linebacker and sophomore Mike McElroy is on the strong side.

The good news is that most of the offensive stars return. It will be the job of junior quarterback Peyton Jones (1,774 passing yards and 12 TDs) and tailbacks KaRon Coleman (706 yards) and Isiah Stoker (446) to hang on to the ball and eat up the clock to help the defense early on. Senior punter Chad Stanley was second in the nation (44.7-yard average).

SAM HOUSTON STATE

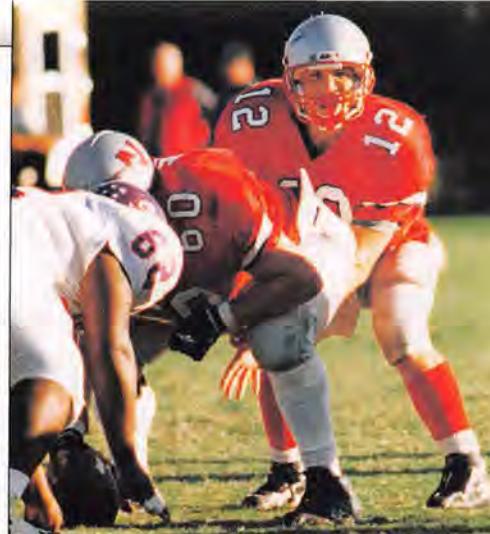
The Bearkats go from returning 16 starters in 1997 to listing only 10 seniors in the spring two-deep. Maybe a youth movement can lift Sam Houston back into the playoff hunt. Last year's veteran club stumbled to an 0-3 start before clawing back to a fourth-place league finish and 5-6 overall.

Coach Ron Randleman's underclassmen are his best. The Bearkats have the last two SFL freshman of the year in junior center Victor McKnight and sophomore receiver Matt Dominguez (43-818). Junior quarterback Albert Bradley takes over full-time after five starts last fall.

The defense returns just four regulars, but they are at the key spots for the 4-3 alignment: linebackers Chad Scott and Bubba Thompson, nose tackle Wendell Phipps, and strong safety Marcus Parks. In a league as tight as the SFL, little things such as special teams can tip the balance. If so, advantage Bearkats, who have solid senior kickers in punter Ryan Klaus (41.9) and James Dummer (11-16 field goals).

SOUTHWEST TEXAS

There are two things a coach must avoid in the SFL: young linemen and a suspect secondary. Unfortunately for the Bobcats, they have both. Only two regulars return on offense: wide receiver D'Angelo Torres and tight end Justin Young. The entire starting line completed its eligibility last year, as did the man it helped make the SFL's two-time player of the year, running back Claude Mathis (1,595 yards). Junior Spergon Wynn, a



Brad Zeller, Nicholls State

transfer from Minnesota, and sophomore Jason Griffin will compete at quarterback.

Second-year coach Bob DeBesse has more experience across the line with five returning defensive starters. Linemen Brad Schley and Clint Bendle combined for 16 sacks and were 1-2 in tackles. Sophomores Beau Walker and Jason Roland are back at linebacker. Junior corner Derrick Vaughn leads the secondary.

Southwest Texas won't win the Southland in 1998, but expect the Bobcats to play a factor in the race as the young talent comes around in the late season to score upsets.

JACKSONVILLE STATE

The Gamecocks did not wait long for their first SFL victory, rocking Sam Houston State at Huntsville in the league opener. Unfortunately for the first-year Southland member, the rest of the season provided few highlights as Jacksonville State finished 1-10. Nine straight losses, punctuated by a 49-0 blowout at Troy, brought about changes. Second-year coach Mike Williams has almost as many newcomers (36, including 11 transfers) as returning lettermen (37).

The 4-3 is gone, replaced with a five-man front in an attempt to plug up a defense that allowed 32 points and almost 400 yards a game. Williams is looking to junior transfer Delvin Rainer and Rodney Young to provide better control on the line for returning linebackers Alton Murphy and Antonio Andrews. Sophomore Natarsha James and seniors Eurosius Parker and Delvin Hughley are back in the secondary.

The offense retains senior quarterback Montressa Kirby (2,817 passing yards and 17 TD), senior running back Michael Daies, and receivers Ronald Bonner (1,010 yards) and Joey Hamilton. ■

SWAC

Look for a three-way scramble at the top of the SWAC standings.

BY CHUCK PICKARD

As the newest kid on the SWAC block, Arkansas-Pine Bluff is gearing up to make a serious title bid in the school's second season of competition. The Lions went 6-2 in a trial run against league opponents last fall when they were ineligible for championship consideration.

The waiting period is over for UA-PB, which should create a three-way scramble at the top of the standings with Jackson State and Southern. JSU has put together a string of 13 straight non-losing seasons; its 76-35-3 record leads the conference over the past decade.

Texas Southern and Mississippi Valley are coming off subpar years. Grambling, Alcorn State, and Alabama State could pull a few surprises under new coaches, but Prairie View A&M will be hard pressed to escape the league basement. The Panthers' main objective is to snap a 77-game losing streak that dates back to 1989.

The new coaches are former Grambling star Doug Williams, who is returning to his alma mater as the successor to the venerable Eddie Robinson; Dr. Johnny Thomas, who replaces Cardell Jones at Alcorn; and Rod Dickerson, who takes over for Houston Markham at Alabama State.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Steve Wofford,
RB, Southern

DEFENSE:

Terry Housah,
LB, Mississippi Valley

NEWCOMER:

T.C. Taylor,
QB, Jackson State

GAME TO WATCH

Southern vs. UA-PB, at Little Rock,
September 12

Jackson at Southern,
October 17

Jackson vs. UA-PB, at Little Rock,
October 31

SOUTHERN

Rebounding smartly from their only loss of the season (to Florida A&M), the Jaguars put the finishing touches on a perfect 8-0 SWAC run by blasting archrival Grambling 30-7 in the Bayou Classic and then outlasting South Carolina State 34-27 in the Heritage Bowl.

The Jags' chances of making a repeat title showing under coach of the year Pete Richardson look good with junior Marcus Jacoby (1,425 passing yards and 14 TDs) directing an attack that features SWAC offensive player of the year Steve Wofford (league-high 1,274 rushing yards and 12 TDs) and fullback Jermaine West. Jovan Riley is the top receiver and all-SWAC tackle Chris Williams returns on the line.

All-conference end Joe Williams helps make the defense one of the best in I-AA. Linebacker Channing Warner and back Jackie Mitchell (5 interceptions) will also play prominent roles. The Jags led the league in rushing defense and rushing offense.

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

After testing the SWAC waters for the first time in 1997, the Lions are expected to make a big splash in this season's title chase with 16 starters returning from a squad that fashioned an 8-3 record while going 6-2 against league opponents. Senior Rod Robinson sparks an attack that

ranked third in total offense and scoring offense.

Robinson completed 50 percent of his passes for 1,573 yards and 14 touchdowns with only seven interceptions. The versatile quarterback also ran for 10 TDs while averaging 178.6 yards in total offense, second-best in the league. Senior Kevin Williams led the team in catches (37), receiving yards (621), and TD receptions (6). Sophomore Oscar Bullard, who averaged a whopping 8.5 yards in limited action, must step forth to help offset the loss of top rusher Andre Tolefree. Guard Terrance Beadles returns up front.

A pair of all-league first-teamers, free safety Chris Akins and end Sam Simmons, are standouts on a defense that allowed a league-low 17 points and 248 yards a game. The departure of Daedrick Cail, who led the SWAC with eight interceptions, leaves a void in the secondary, but Akins is a proven pass defender, having swiped six passes last fall. Byron White averaged 38.4 yards on 48 punts to gain all-league recognition.

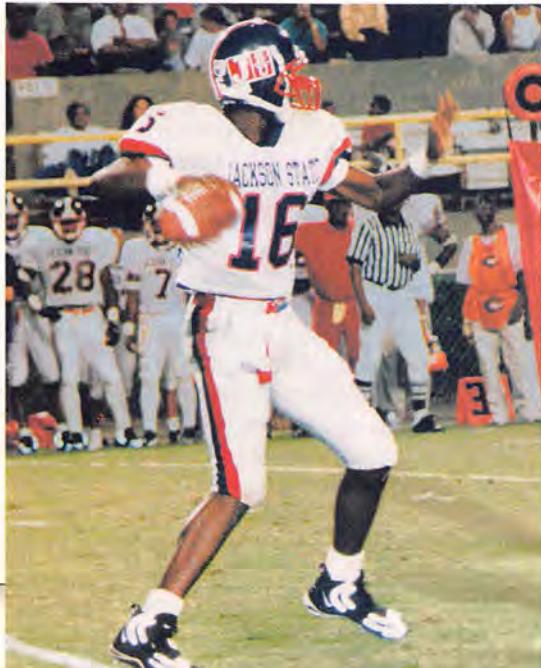
JACKSON STATE

After losing 15 starters, six of whom signed NFL contracts, off last season's I-AA playoff team, the Tigers face a major rebuilding job as they attempt to get a foot in the SWAC title door for the fifth time in the past decade. JSU finished second a year ago while posting a 9-3 record and losing to Western Illinois in opening-round action of the I-AA playoffs.

In addition to the six NFL-bound players, the Tigers must regroup without All-America Grailyn Pratt, who threw for a school-record 6,893 yards and 57 touchdowns during his career. Junior Mark Washington will direct an offense that averaged a whopping 439.2 yards and 33 points. He passed for 1,246 yards and 12 touchdowns.

All-league receivers Daryl Heidelberg and Corey Bradford will be sorely missed, but junior Sylvester Morris is solid (46 catches). Junior Destry

Mark Washington, Jackson State



Wright ran for 878 yards and eight TDs. Three senior heavyweights—Tony Black-shear (6-3, 365), Devin Rutherford (6-5, 337), and Thomas Holloway (6-3, 285)—return on a line that lacks depth.

Across the line, ends Jason Marshall and Eric Chandler and tackle Edward Hawes are back, but Marcus Beeks, Harold Wooten, and Dennis Thompson are the only linebackers with experience. Senior safety Eric Wilcher is the lone returnee in the secondary.

TEXAS SOUTHERN

After posting the school's first winning season in two decades in 1996, the Tigers slipped back into their losing ways by finishing 5-6. Nevertheless, coach Bill Thomas is optimistic about TSU recovering its winning way.

Fifth-year senior James Wilhite was a spectator for most of 1997 after going down with a torn left ACL in the second game, but TSU is unbeaten in the five games that he has started at quarterback. Thomas Sieh (1,102 yards) was the league's No. 2 rusher. Markus Howell and David Herring are experienced receivers.

Dwan Epps is one of the finest linebackers to come out of the Houston school. Other key defensive hands include tackle Fred Day, end Jermaine Bingham, and back Derrick Jonkins.

Return specialist Joseph Jamison and kicker Ramon Rivera joined Sieh on the all-SWAC squad.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Hoping to build on last season's strong finish that saw the Delta Devils (5-5) win four of their final five games, coach Larry Dorsey will rely on an improved running game and a better overall showing from the defense to make his team a force in the SWAC title race.

Look for senior Sean Davis to increase his team-high 382 yards. Herbert Fry also should be a more productive runner behind a veteran line headed by junior Terrance Ware. Junior Melvin Williams and soph Rapheal Fuller will compete at quarterback. They combined for 1,772 yards and 15 touchdown passes. Tight end Randy Powell (30 catches) and senior classmate Kwanza Golden are the main targets.

Terry Houzah was the league's defensive player of the year. Fellow linebacker Samuel Dickerson was named to the all-league team after leading the SWAC in tackles. Linemen Anthony Bon-

ner and Saxton Torrance have all-star potential. Jasmine Tramel and Joe Todd have experience in the secondary.

Willie Totten, is the new offensive coordinator, which means the Devils could be scoring early and often. The former MVSU quarterback once teamed with Jerry Rice to form one of the college game's most feared passing combos.

GRAMBLING

After posting back-to-back conference victories in October, the Tigers appeared to be rolling in the right direction, only to see the wheels come off down the stretch. The G-Men dropped their final six games for a second straight 3-8 record in Eddie Robinson's final season. Doug Williams has succeeded the legendary Robinson, who stepped down as college football's all-time winningest coach (408-155-15).

Williams has installed a multiple protest offense to replace the wing-T formation that was the trademark of Robinson-coached teams. Transfer quarterbacks Lionel Hayes (Southern) and Peter Burks (Arkansas) are battling for the starting job.

The offense faces a major overhaul. Senior Silas Payne (22 catches and 7 TDs) is being groomed for All-America honors and senior fullback LeJuan Miller put up respectable numbers on the ground (374 yards). Toriano Young (6-6, 330 pounds) is a huge fixture on the line.

Linebackers Claudell Sanford and George Guidry head a unit that allowed the second-fewest yards (252.6 per game) among in the SWAC. Chris Lazard and Seneca Knight are the top linemen.

ALCORN STATE

Dr. Johnnie D. Thomas is returning to his alma mater as a rookie head coach, and the Braves' fortunes could be on the mend if the good doctor manages the same success on the coaching lines that he experienced during his playing days. He earned NAIA All-America honors as a linebacker in 1976-77.

Thomas must dig deep into his bag of tricks, however, to get the Braves (4-7) back on the winning track. All-league linebacker Eric Mitchell heads a slim crop of returning lettermen. Junior Todd McDaniels is being counted on to shore up the line. Damon Felder offers protection in the secondary; he also makes things happen as a punt returner, averaging 15 yards, including an 89-yard TD.

The running game shows promise as

long as seniors Estus Sands remains healthy and James Robinson delivers up front, where all-SWAC junior Jabari Thomas also plays a prominent role. Junior Marcus Taylor will get the nod at quarterback. His main targets are seniors Donald Driver and Thad Bridges.

ALABAMA STATE

The Hornets will show a rejuvenated look as they attempt to get back on track under new coach Rod Dickerson, who spent 26 years in the major-college ranks, including stints as an assistant coach at Colorado and defensive coordinator at Clemson. With 16 returning regulars, Dickerson hopes avoid a third straight 3-8 mark.

Sophomore Darnell Kennedy captured rookie of the year honors by throwing for a school-record and SWAC-leading 2,378 yards. His 207 completions also set an ASU mark. Junior Damon Hodge caught 53 passes for a team-best 734 yards and nine touchdowns. Tight end Johnny Huggins also figures prominently in the passing plans, providing he can rebound from an injury-plagued junior season. Senior Sedrick Easterling ran for 374 yards. Marvin Taylor, who is being groomed for all-league honors, has center stage on a line that shows experience at every position.

Senior linebacker Tywanious Lockett led the team in tackles for the second year. Senior end Shawn Moore and back Damian Johnson are other key links.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

While the talent-loaded teams envision winning seasons and conference championships, the slumped Panthers would be content to simply crack the victory column and rid themselves of a 77-game losing streak.

Second-year coach Gregory Johnson sees a ray of light, with 16 returning starters. Senior Josh Barnes will direct an offense that includes running back Terry Brown and tight end Roy Moses. Giant-sized tackles Eian Preston (6-4, 309) and Vincent Leonard (6-5, 300) lead the charge up front.

The defense, which allowed 366.4 yards per game, will depend heavily on linebackers Courtney Miller, Andrew Tolbert, and De'Mon Stanford. Tackles John Walker and Marcus Hayes and end Heiser Shields also figure to play a key role, along with back Quincy Fuller, the leading tackler, and Bobby Scott.

I-AA INDEPENDENTS

Western Kentucky, Cal Poly, and Hofstra are the best of the bunch.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE:

Giovanni Carmazzi,
QB, Hofstra

DEFENSE:

Jesse Riley,
LB, Liberty

NEWCOMER:

Biff Parson,
QB, Liberty

GAMES TO WATCH

Liberty at Appalachian State, September 5

South Carolina State at Charleston Southern, September 5

Davidson at Jacksonville, September 12

Southern Utah at Montana, September 12

Eastern Kentucky at Western Kentucky, September 19

Hofstra at Connecticut, October 10

Cal Poly at Southern Utah, November 7

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Willie Taggart is back to run the option offense, and that's good news for the Hilltoppers. The senior became the first quarterback in school history to run and pass for more than 1,000 yards in a season. He led Western Kentucky to a 10-2 mark and a quarterfinal berth in the I-AA playoffs.

Taggart's 121.7 yards rushing per game and 8.0 yards per carry were Division I-AA records. Coach Jack Harbaugh's team led I-AA in rushing (332.0 yards per game) and was third in scoring (35.7 points) and eighth in rushing defense (103.2 yards) per game last season.

That the Hilltoppers are poised to equal or improve on the school's best record in 22 years should not be a surprise. Sixteen starters return. None is more exciting than Taggart, who rushed for 289 yards against Southern Illinois last fall. Rejoining him are senior All-America center Patrick Goodman and senior tackle Andy Hape.

Linebacker Trae Hackett, tackle Bryan Heyward, and cornerback Delvechio Walls form the defensive nucleus. Junior Jeff Poisel is back after setting school records for points after touchdowns (54) and scoring for a kicker (87 points). *By Randall Mell*

CAL POLY

Larry Welsh had his Mustangs running hard right out of the starting gate in his first season as a collegiate head coach. On the strength of the nation's No. 7 offense (455 yards a game), Cal Poly rolled to a 10-1 record and its first-ever top-20 national ranking.

A repeat performance will be difficult. Welsh must replace the nation's top-rated passer, Alli Abrew, who threw for 1,961 yards and 17 touchdowns, and All-America receiver Kamil Loud. Junior college quarterback Andy Jepson racked up 1,616 yards passing and 16 TDs in two years at Iowa Central Community College.

The Mustangs will be forced to rely more on their running attack, which flourished last fall, averaging 266 yards a game. The school's only 1,000-yard rushing tandem returns: senior Antonio Warren (1,151 yards) and junior Craig Young (1,038).

The stingy Mustang defense returns just five starters. Junior linebacker Osbaldo Orozco provides the cornerstone around which the unit will be rebuilt. He had 105 tackles, the second-highest total in school history. Alan Beilke kicked a pair of clutch field goals to give Cal Poly victories, including a 50-yarder as time expired at Montana State. He also handles the punting. *By Les Kovach*

HOFSTRA

The Flying Dutchmen retain the key players from an explosive offense and their entire defensive front seven. Back-to-back losses to Connecticut and Youngstown State and a 24-14 playoff loss to Delaware were the only glitches in a 9-3 season. "We're excited," said Hofstra coach Joe Gardi, a former assistant coach with the New York Jets, who is 62-24-2 at Hofstra.

No player had a greater impact than quarterback Giovanni "Gio" Carmazzi, a freshman redshirt at the University of Pacific when that school dropped football. Carmazzi, who carries a 3.9 GPA in the classroom, put up incredible numbers in his second season on Long Island, completing 70.6 percent of his passes for 3,554 yards and 27 TDs. He had plenty of support from tailbacks Vaughn Sanders (631 yards) and Paul Que (542) and wide receivers Wayne Yearwood (76 catches for 973 yards) and Jauron McKelvin (38-391). Junior tackle Mike Rescigno heads the line.

Junior linebackers Jim Emanuel and Casey Mahoney and senior tackle Tyree Allison return on defense, but the secondary lost three starters. Dave Ettinger, who made 17 of 22 field goals and 42 of 48 PATs, graduated.

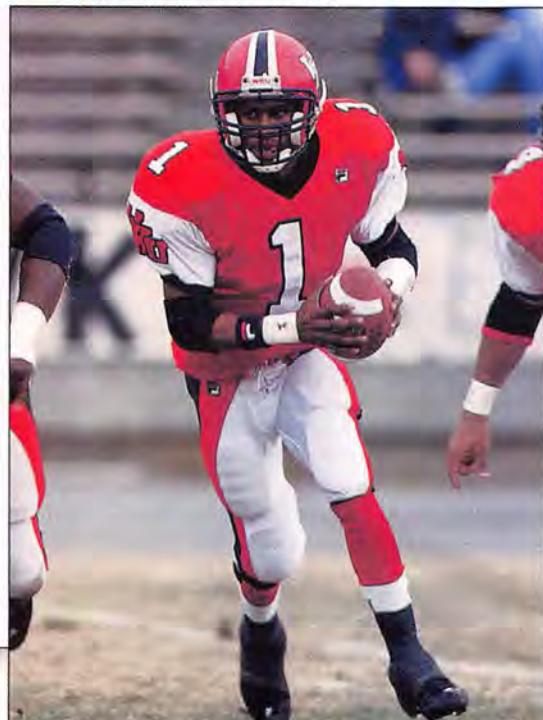
By Bill Heller

LIBERTY

With 19 starters returning from the school's best-ever team (9-2), the Flames look toward earning a berth in the I-AA playoffs. They will discover in their opener against Appalachian State whether that dream is realistic.

Sam Rutigliano, the former Cleveland Browns coach, will start an inexperienced quarterback, but veterans at practically every other position offset that concern. All-America linebacker Jesse Riley heads the defensive unit that forced a national-high 40 turnovers. The linebacker corps also includes Jamie

Willie Taggart, Western Kentucky



Christian and Billy Seals. Torrey Rush, a three-year starter at safety, anchors the secondary, and tackle Jarrod Everson heads the line.

Either sophomore Christian Newsome or freshman Biff Parson will get the call at quarterback, and the return of four regulars in the line and both running backs should ease the pressure. Ulysses Moore will start for the third year at tackle, and Peter Foy, beginning his third year at tight end, should be more of a factor. Stacy Nobles (977 rushing yards and 14 TDs) and Walt Heilig provide a solid 1-2 backfield punch. *By Bob Spear*

SOUTHERN UTAH

Lack of experience will not be an obstacle in Cedar City; the Thunderbirds return 16 starters, including nine on an offense that ranked No. 2 in the nation last fall. But improving on last year's 5-6 record will be difficult. The schedule features four I-AA playoff teams.

The two departed starters will be missed: quarterback Joe Dupaix and guard Adam Black. Matt Cannon, who ran for 1,024 yards and completed 25 passes playing primarily at slotback, will replace Dupaix. Junior Terry Rose, senior Anthony Jefferies, and sophomore Koby Leon will pick up the slack at slotback. The key will again be fullback Brook Madsen, a two-time I-AA first-team all-independent who rushed for 2,619 yards and 25 touchdowns the last two seasons. The line is led by John Uriarte and Brett Williams. Senior Jake Gregory and three sophomores return at wideout.

The defense was hit harder by graduation, but all-independent linebacker/safety Clay Marshall returns. He led the team in tackles the past two seasons. He'll be joined by third-team All-America Jimmy Brimmer. Mana Kula anchors the line and Kenny Lindsay returns in the secondary. *By Les Kovach*

SOUTH FLORIDA

The Bulls were a hit in their inaugural year of football. An average of more than 33,000 fans per game turned out to see I-AA football in Tampa, and the Bulls nearly gave them a winning season. They finished 5-6 with three losses by a total of five points. With every starter but one back, coach Jim Leavitt is aiming at a winning record this year with a future move to Division I-A.

The offense will be in good hands with senior Chad Barnhardt, who threw

for 2,362 yards and 10 touchdowns. He threw his final 110 passes without an interception. Tailbacks Jermaine Clemons and Rafael Williams combined for over 1,400 yards. Senior Clif Dell and Trevor Hypolite are back as targets. Senior guard Ivan Alicot, sophomore center Joey Sipp, and junior guard Cedric Bell anchor the front.

The defense features one of I-AA's best secondaries: free safety Anthony Henry, strong safety Roy Manns, and cornerbacks Glenn Davis and Bernard Brown. Other top players include end Brett Avery and linebackers Jason Butler and Demterius Woods. *By Randall Mell*

DAVIDSON

The Wildcats (3-8), coming off a year in which they suffered six losses in the final 90 seconds, return 15 regulars. Quarterback Tommy Dugan, who ranks among the school's top 10 career passers, and fullback Eric Ferguson, the No. 10 career rusher with two seasons remaining, head the returnees.

"We have strength at the skill positions on offense and at linebacker and in the secondary," said coach Tim Landis. "What we have to do is get better in the fourth quarter."

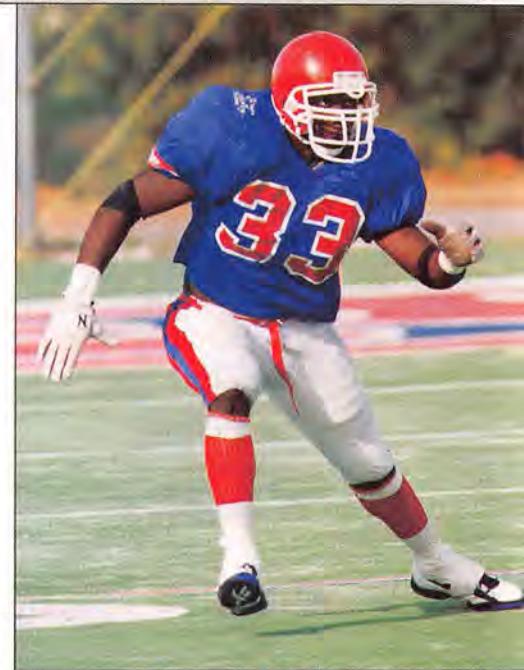
The Wildcats, a I-AA team that plays primarily a Division III schedule, feature Wes Jones, one of the best I-AA tight ends in the nation. Split end Roland Williams is a threat receiving and on special teams. Sophomores Bo Henderson at end and Freeman Belser at linebacker have all-star potential. *By Bob Spear*

SAMFORD

The Bulldogs have put together three winning seasons in a row and are poised to enjoy their biggest year yet under fifth-year coach Pete Hurt. They finished with five straight victories last fall and are looking to keep the streak alive.

Eighteen starters return. Samford pounded teams with the run in '97, and that will be the idea once again with questions abounding at quarterback. Sophomore running back Rashad Brewer returns after rushing for 735 yards and 10 TDs. Senior tackle Aaron Bryant is a force up front.

The defense rallies around junior middle linebacker Fred Bishop, senior free safety John Buchanan, and senior end James Taylor, who had a team-high seven sacks last fall. *By Randall Mell*



Jesse Riley, Liberty

MOREHEAD STATE

The good news at Morehead State is that 17 starters return from last year's 7-3 team. The bad news is that the team's most productive offensive players are gone.

Fifth-year coach Matt Ballard must replace the leading passer and receiver and the top two runners. Gone is Doug Turner, who threw for nearly 3,000 yards in '97; Chris Berry, who rushed for 401 yards and caught a team-leading 54 passes; and 1,000-yard rusher Anthony Ravizee. The trio helped Morehead State average 41.9 points a game. Sophomore David Dinkins looks like the new QB. He's got some topnotch receivers in junior Todd Chase (53-743), who caught nine touchdown passes in '97.

Morehead State allowed 31 points and 258 yards rushing per game. The leading tackler, linebacker Zack Moore, is back, as is the leading sack man, lineman Ronnie Waife. *By Randall Mell*

ST. MARY'S (CA)

Mike Rasmussen faces a major rebuilding project, particularly on offense, where only three starters return. The slide actually began last fall, as the Gaels' production slipped to 339 yards a game (down from 385 in 1996) and their record dropped to 4-6, the first losing season in 11 years.

The Gaels will need to rely on defense to keep them in games. Linebacker and leading tackler Dave Smith will be missed, but seniors Brian Gardner and Omar Garcia return. Three-year starter

I-AA INDEPENDENTS



Chad Barnhardt, South Florida

Coree Thomas (7 sacks) anchors the line. Only one starter was lost in the secondary, which should become the team's strength with a little more experience. Strong safety Lenny Walls heads the group and provides solid run support underneath.

The biggest hole to fill was left by quarterback Sean Laird, the school's all-time leader in total offense and passing yards. Chad Thomas and Joe Lilley completed six passes between them. Brandin Young should assume the starting tailback job vacated by Ed Williams. Gino Marini will be the new go-to receiver and Dalton Brown and John Newell return up front.

By Les Kovach

BUFFALO

The Bulls' prolific passing game was overshadowed by a defense that allowed 30 points or more nine times in a 2-9 season, not a healthy sign for a team headed to I-A in 1999.

Chad Salisbury set school records for attempts (384), completions (218), and yards (2,889) with 16 TDs and 17 interceptions. He has explosive receivers in Drew Haddad (67 catches, school-record 1,058 yards) and Kali Watkins (54-714). All-time leading rusher Anthony Swan is gone, leaving fullback Josh Roth and redshirt freshman David Schmidli to run behind a line that retains four regulars.

Senior end Dan Poulsen (7 sacks) and junior linebacker Dan Curcione head a defensive unit that returns just three other starters.

By Bill Heller

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

With a 13-60 record to show for their seven seasons, including a 1-9 mark in '97, the Buccaneers are still struggling. The return of 17 regulars makes prospects brighter this fall.

Lance Miller and Thomas Williams, the top rushers, rejoin quarterback Andy Tarr in an experienced backfield. They will operate behind a line that includes 295-pound Dennie McDaniel and 300-pound John Breedon. Leading receiver Ande Goldsmith looks to increase his production (29 catches).

The Bucs surrendered 242 yards rushing and 32.6 points a game, areas that must be improved for the record to rise. Seven starters are back, headed by outside linebacker Gary Hamby. Greg Pickney and Sam Brown provide stability in the secondary.

By Bob Spear

AUSTIN PEAY

A year after going to a non-scholarship program, which thinned last year's roster to 22 players for spring workouts, the Govs have replenished their ranks, and that should go a long way in helping second-year coach Bill Schmitz rebound from last season's 0-10 debacle.

Eighteen starters are back, including all but one on defense. Senior captain and outside linebacker Tommy Leaf anchors the unit. Senior end Mike Merriman is the team's best pass rusher. Senior cornerback Taylor Jenkins, senior strong safety Roderick Boose, and sophomore free safety LeNorris Staples hope to improve a unit that yielded 30 or more points in all but one game a year ago.

Senior Adam Pineo became the fastest quarterback in school history to amass 1,000 yards passing last year before suffering a collapsed lung in the season's sixth game. Senior receiver O.T. Todd and senior center Tony Lockhart are solid performers.

By Randall Mell

ELON

In the heels of a successful season (7-4) in Division II, Elon makes the jump to I-AA. Third-year head coach Al Seagraves knows the Fighting Christians will have to improve in order to keep up with the stiffer competition.

The wishbone will again be the main attack. The entire backfield returns: Steve Ferguson, Daren Bethea, and Shawn Gannaway rejoin leading rushers DeWayne

Thomas (697 yards) and quarterback Derrick Moore (906 yards rushing, 572 passing). Seagraves will experiment with the shotgun to take some pressure off the ground game. Elon passed for only 58 yards a game. The targets are Travis Whitaker, Brian Broadie, and Omar Curry and tight ends George Baker and Rae Brown. Blocking up front is provided by tackle Tim Holliday and guards John Putnam and Greg Raines.

Nine starters are back on a defense that allowed 368 yards and 24.4 points a game. Linebackers Roger Allen and Stephen Bloodworth impressed in the spring. The strength of the unit is the line, headed by Mark Boseman, Kelly Forrest, and Philip Solomon. Mario Thompson provides experience in the secondary.

By Les Kovach

LA SALLE

Coach Bill Manlove, who won two Division III national championships at Widener, will try to build on a 1-8 season, La Salle's first in 56 years. Mike Bramowski took over in the middle of last season and threw for 745 yards and five TDs. Ralph Saccia moved from QB to receiver and caught 13 passes for 184 yards, teaming with Greg English (17-277). Justin Beyer is the top rusher.

Mark Pitta came up from the secondary to lead the Explorers in tackles, while senior Anthony Gatt, who had not played football since his freshman year in high school, filled in admirably at middle linebacker. Drew Costello (5 sacks) led the line.

By Bill Heller

JACKSONVILLE

The Dolphins are building from ground zero. There are no returning starters, no returning lettermen, and no tradition to lean upon. That's because this is the school's inaugural football season. Jacksonville will be introduced to the I-AA non-scholarship ranks in a home game against Davidson on September 12. Coach Steve Gilbert is ushering in the new era after nine years at Division III's Ursinus.

It's truly a youthful program, with freshmen battling at every position. Quarterbacks Gary Cooper and Talmadge Ford are rebounding from knee injuries. Wide receiver J.P. Andrew and center Bob Beck were standouts in the spring, as were linebackers Chris Conley and Pete Satur and defensive back Carl Toop.

By Randall Mell ■

DIVISION II

Northern Colorado is looking for its third straight national title.

BY GREGG DEWALT

FLORENCE TIMESDAILY

It was only a couple of years ago that the University of North Alabama finished a three-year run of football success unmatched in Division II history. The Lions won 41 of 42 games and three consecutive national championships to establish themselves as one of the true dynasties in college football at any level.

Few people thought any team could match UNA's run of success, and certainly no one thought it could happen this soon. But with two straight national championship trophies tucked away in Greeley, the University of Northern Colorado is poised to join the Lions in college football history. The Bears, coming off a 51-0 demolition of New Haven in the 1997 Division II title game in Florence, Alabama, will open 1998 with one goal in mind: a third straight championship.

If the Bears, under coach Joe Glenn, can pull it off, it would be a fun debate over which teams were better: the 1993-95 Lions or the 1996-98 Bears. And to make matters even more interesting, the two teams could end up meeting in the playoffs in 1998 since both North Alabama and Northern Colorado are expected to contend for the national championship.

The pressure is squarely on the Bears, who return 17 starters from last year's 13-2 team. Glenn is aware that the expectations have been raised a notch in Greeley, but so far he isn't letting the Bears even think about a third title.

"Just getting back to the playoffs will be murder," said Glenn, whose team has five tough league road games this year. "There are so many good teams in the North Central Conference—probably eight teams could knock us off. I'm not letting anyone talk about a three-peat. If you get caught up in that three-peat stuff, you can get knocked off in a hurry. If you get big, dumb, and happy, you're asking for it."

GAMES TO WATCH

North Alabama vs.
Carson-Newman
(at Rome, GA)
September 5

Central Arkansas at
Southern Arkansas,
October 3

Bloomsburg at
Millersville,
October 10

Pittsburg State at
NW Missouri State,
October 24

Northern Colorado at
Nebraska-Omaha,
October 24

UC-Davis at Grand
Valley State,
October 31

Coach Joe Glenn has put **NORTHERN COLORADO** football on the map. He's had nine straight winning seasons to go along with the two national championships. With a solid returning nucleus, including junior quarterback Corte McGuffey, Harlon Hill candidate Aaron Smith, and a wrecking crew at defensive end, there's no reason the Bears can't end up in the championship game for a third straight time.

"Even though we don't lose a ton of people, we lost some key people," Glenn points out. "Replacing [RB] Billy Holmes [1,587 yards, 19 TDs] won't be easy. I'm confident that we have some players to step in and make a smooth transition."

UC DAVIS has come very close to making the championship game, and this might just be the year the Aggies get over their "semifinal hump," as coach Bob Biggs calls it. In each of the last two seasons, UC Davis has been ousted from the playoffs in the semifinals: in 1996 by Carson-Newman and in 1997 by New Haven. And don't let last year's 9-5 record fool you. Two of the losses were to I-AA teams.

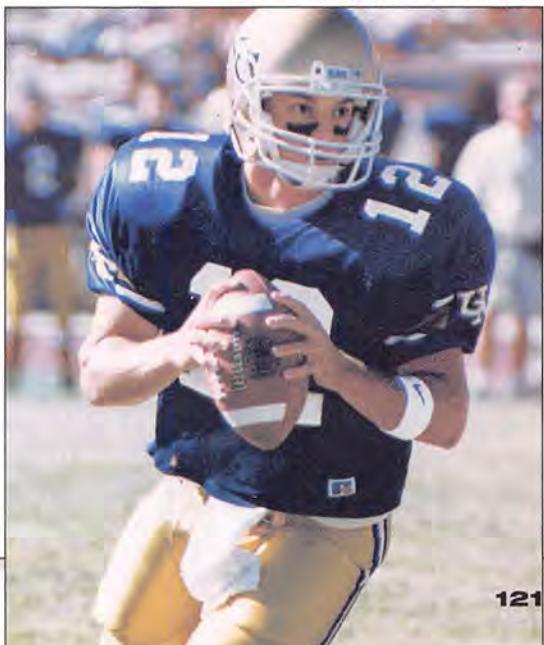
"There is no substitute for experience," Biggs said. "Once you have the opportunity to play some of the better teams in the country, and you find that you're competitive with them, it gives the players confidence that they can play with anybody. We know we're doing things right, and that we can compete with the strongest teams in the country."

The Aggies have one of the nation's top quarterbacks in Kevin Daft, who tossed 33 touchdown passes to go along with his 3,698 yards. Daft threw for a division-record 482 yards in a 27-25 semifinal loss to New Haven. Four receivers who each had over 40 catches also return, including John Shoemaker, who caught 68. The defense should be better with the return of end Josh Antsey, a 1996 All-America who missed all but one quarter of '97 with a knee injury. Antsey, a graduate student in agronomy, received a medical red-shirt after recording 15 sacks in 1996.

GRAND VALLEY STATE came close to a perfect season—losing twice by a total of five points. The Lakers (9-2) tied for the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference title with Ashland. The losses were a 30-27 overtime setback at Saginaw Valley State and a 21-19 defeat at UC Davis. It doesn't look like the Lakers will surrender their MIFC crown without a fight. Coach Brian Kelly has a total of 17 starters returning, including Harlon Hill candidate Jeff Fox at quarterback. Fox, a junior, has completed 57 percent of his passes. He also has shown durability, running for 482 yards and five TDs. The defense should be solid with linebacker Matt Powell and tackle Keith O'Brien back for their senior year.

CARSON-NEWMAN has been so close to winning championships that eventually the South Atlantic Conference power will return one to Jefferson City, Tennessee. The Eagles were ranked No. 1 throughout the regular season, but Northern Colorado knocked them out of the title chase with a 30-29 semifinal victory. Ken Sparks's team lost running back Tyrone Westmoreland, a Harlon Hill Trophy finalist, and three members of one of the nation's best secondaries. But there is never any shortage of talent at Carson-Newman. The offensive line returns four starters to

Corte McGuffey, Northern Colorado



DIVISION II

provide protection for quarterback Zac Allen. All-America return specialist Jacques Rumph is also back after leading the SAC in kickoff returns.

For the first time since 1988, **NORTH ALABAMA** will have a new football coach on the sideline. Bobby Wallace, who led the Lions to three national championships, has moved on to Temple and long-time defensive coordinator Bill Hyde has taken over. Hyde, who logged 17 years as an assistant at UNA, inherits a team that is loaded with talent after finishing 9-3. The Lions lost to Carson-Newman in the first round of the playoffs but are missing just eight regulars. Hyde must rebuild the offensive line, but he has tailback Greg Manson (1,189 yards, 15 TDs) to rely on. Defensive back Marcus Hill, an All-America candidate, had six interceptions. Corey Harris, another DB, had three interceptions in one game.

TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE always seems to be in the hunt for a championship, and this season should be no different. The Javelinas lost only twice in 1997: at North Alabama and in the opening round of the playoffs to UC Davis. The early exit from the postseason may make the Javelinas even more dangerous than usual. But Ron Harms has some rebuilding to do. He must replace leading running back Norman Miller, quarterback Oktay Basci, wide receiver Stephen Norman, and linebacker and leading tackler Chris Hensley. The Javelinas remain the team to beat in the Lone Star Conference.

PITTSBURG STATE is another team that knows what it takes to win a national championship. The Gorillas (9-2) were on track in '97 for another title before

Lewis Hicks, Indiana (PA)



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Northern Colorado stopped them in the opening round of the playoffs. Pittsburg State should contend for the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship with 14 starters returning. Among them are quarterback Zack Siegriest and conference MVP Chad Webb. When the Gorillas can't move the football, three-time All-America punter Brian Moorman usually bails them out.

Northern Colorado has supplanted **NORTH DAKOTA STATE** as the premier team in the NCC, but the Bison are not far behind. NDSU beat the Bears 28-24 in Greeley, but exited the playoffs in the first round. Coach Bob Babich has 13 starters returning but must find replacements for All-Americans Jake Morris (TB) and Sean Fredericks (LB). Quarterback Kevin Feeney made the transition from the option game to an I-formation with ease, throwing a school-record 16 touchdown passes and running for seven. If the Bison can survive another brutal NCC schedule, they should make it past the first round of the playoffs.

ALBANY STATE (11-1) was supposed to be rebuilding last fall. Some rebuilding! All the team did was win 11 straight games, including the SIAC's first-ever victory in the postseason, before bowing to Carson-Newman 23-22 in the quarterfinals. The Rams shouldn't have to worry on defense, where 10 regulars return. The best of a good bunch is tackle Andre Slaphey. Look for Albany State to win a sixth straight SIAC title.

Recovering from the shellacking it received in the championship game may be a tough assignment at **NEW HAVEN**, but coach Tony Sparano is confident the Chargers will be fine. New Haven's strength should be on defense, where backs Dennis Burney, Troy Appling, and Antwuan Dance combined for 13 interceptions in '97. Finding replacements for Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Cazzie Kosciolek at quarterback and 1,000-yard rusher Don Highsmith are the biggest concerns.

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE won its first MIAA title last fall, and has made back-to-back quarterfinal playoff appearances. Now coach Mel Tjeerdsma thinks he has a team that can go even further. His optimism seems well-founded as All-America quarterback and Harlon Hill Trophy candidate Chris Griesen returns for his senior season. Griesen led the Bearcats to an MIAA scoring record, averaging 44 points per game. Included among the 12 victories was a 15-14 decision over Pittsburg State, the first time

Northwest Missouri beat the Gorillas.

At **MILLERSVILLE**, coach Gene A. Carpenter needs only three victories to reach 200 for his career, and the Marauders seem primed for a playoff run. Sean Scott caught 13 touchdown passes in his freshman season, a stat that is believed to be an NCAA all-division record. Mike McFetridge has consecutive 70-catch seasons, a sure sign that the Marauders will score some points. Defensively, 10 starters are back on a team that won seven games.

SLIPPERY ROCK came from nowhere to earn a postseason berth. Sophomore quarterback Rick McKavish had 2,558 yards in total offense. The Rock also has 1,000-yard rushers Rick Magulick and Stan Kennedy. On defense, All-America nose tackle Matt Kinsinger recorded 12 sacks and 26 tackles for loss.

WESTERN STATE beat Northern Colorado early in the season, won the Rocky Mountain Conference title, and had a short visit to the playoffs, losing to Angelo State in the first round. The good news for the Mountaineers is that 10 regulars return on an offense that scored over 40 points four times. Eric Hannah threw 22 touchdown passes, including nine to Joe Weubben, and both are back for their senior year.

Much like Slippery Rock in the PSAC, **SOUTHERN ARKANSAS** shocked the Gulf South Conference on the way to a 9-2 record that included a first-round playoff loss to Albany State. The Muleriders had a dream season in which everything went right. They won six games by 10 points or less, and with 17 starters back, they should be a factor in the GSC race again. The club benefited from a new wishbone offense and has the backfield returning intact.

NEBRASKA-OMAHA was good in 1997 (8-3) and expects to be even better this year. That means trouble for NCC teams, which will try to slow down senior Ed Thompson, the first player in Division II to run and throw for more than 1,000 yards in the same season.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS is another of the GSC teams that could find itself in the playoffs. The Bears have a tandem of Andre King, who had over 1,000 yards in 1996, and Shadrick McAfee, a do-it-all type who had 258 all-purpose yards in a game last season. Senior corner Danny Johnson led the conference with seven interceptions.

Things will be a little different around **BLOOMSBURG** this fall because Harlon Hill Trophy winner Irv Sigler is no longer in the backfield. Ed Carothers, who has limited experience, appears to be the heir



Johnny Luter, Central Oklahoma

apparent to Sigler. With only 10 starters back, last year's 8-2 record and PSAC East championship may be hard to match.

WINONA STATE ended the season with an eight-game winning streak and has all the ingredients to equal its 8-2 record this year. Safety Jamey Hutchinson set a school record and led all divisions with 11 interceptions. Quarterback Jake Goettl was third nationally in passing efficiency. His favorite target, Chad Fitzsimmons (10 TDs), is also back.

Stop Brian Shay and you stop **EMPIORIA STATE**. But that's easier said than done as the Harlon Hill Trophy runner-up closes in on uncharted NCAA territory. Shay, who has rushed for 4,015 yards the last two seasons, needs 1,628 to become the all-time leading rusher in the history of college football. He needs 1,518 all-purpose yards to become the first player to surpass the 8,000-yard mark. Shay needs only 97 points to surpass Walter Payton as Division II's all-time leading scorer. He had 32 touchdowns last fall as Emporia State led the nation with 531.5 yards per game and was second in scoring, averaging 42.3 points.

Mike Kelly has settled in at **VALDOSTA STATE** after taking over when coach Hal Mumme left for Kentucky following the 1996 season. Kelly's first team produced a 6-5 record, and the second-year VSU coach is looking forward to improving in '98. Eight defensive starters return from a team that finished second in total and rushing defense and third in pass defense in the GSC.

NORTH DAKOTA (8-2) finished second in the NCC and returns a couple of stalwart offensive weapons in running back Phillip Moore (1,771 yards) and All-America tight end Jim Kleinsasser. The Fight-

ing Sioux also get Northern Colorado at home to end the season—an enticing matchup with playoff implications.

INDIANA (5-5) missed the playoffs for only the third time in 11 years. The problem was that the Indians won only one of five home games. That should change this year with 17 starters, including leading receiver Lewis Hicks (59 catches) returning.

CHADRON STATE (8-2) has a pair of All-Americans to rely on while trying to challenge Western State for supremacy in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Inside linebacker Kevin Homer had 156 tackles last season and free safety Ryan Turman added 107.

OTHERS TO WATCH

FERRIS STATE (3-7) had its string of MIFC championships snapped at five, but quarterback Matt McCarthy is healthy again after suffering a season-ending knee injury in the opening game.

FINDLEY is making the transition to Division II from NAIA, where it went

undefeated on the way to the national championship. The Oilers may find it a little more difficult playing against Grand Valley State and Ferris State, however.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE (9-2) is also making the transition to Division II from NAIA. The Titans have had 45 winning seasons in the last 46 years.

KUTZTOWN (6-4) has a new coach in Dave Keeny and 19 starters back, including defensive end Aldain Lobban, who had 10 sacks and 15 tackles for loss last season.

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA (9-2) will be bolstered by the return of Johnny Luter, the 1996 Lone Star Conference defensive lineman of the year, who recorded 163 tackles. A knee injury sidelined him for all of '97, but Luter has returned bigger and stronger than ever.

ST. CLOUD (6-5) lost three all-conference linebackers but has All-America receiver Mike McKinney (73 catches for 1,145 yards and 10 TDs) coming back.

NEWBERRY (4-7) was expected to compete with Carson-Newman for the SAC title, but injuries plagued the Indians from the start. The bright spot was the emergence of freshman running backs Vic Gilmore and Josh Pierce, who combined for 18 TDs and over 1,500 yards rushing.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN (7-4) expects to contend for the MIFC title with 14 starters returning. Defensive back Joe Pfankuch had four interceptions and blocked seven kicks.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (5-6) had a close-but-not-quite type of year, losing three games by four points or less. If the Coyotes can reverse that trend, look out!

ABILENE CHRISTIAN (7-4) was stingy on defense, finishing second in the LSC and No. 14 nationally. The Wildcats need some offense to go with their defense.

EASTERN NEW MEXICO (5-6) linebacker Michael Walton didn't make every tackle for the Greyhounds. It just seemed like it (LSC-leading 156 stops). ■

DIVISION II ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Kevin Daft	SR	UC Davis
RB	Brian Shay	SR	Emporia State
RB	Phillip Moore	SR	North Dakota
OL	Luke Samuel	SR	North Dakota State
OL	Tim Baer	SR	Bloomsburg
OL	Kell Clopton	SR	Southern Arkansas
OL	Brandon Avants	SR	Abilene Christian
OL	Spencer Stevens	SR	Truman State
TE	Jim Kleinsasser	JR	North Dakota
WR	Mike McKinney	SR	St. Cloud
WR	Mark DeBrito	JR	Bentley
PK	Mike Schauer	JR	Northern Colorado

DEFENSE

DL	Aaron Smith	SR	Northern Colorado
DL	Chad Webb	SR	Pittsburg State
DL	Matt Kinsinger	SR	Slippery Rock
LB	Aaron Crowe	SR	NW Missouri State
LB	Kevin Homer	SR	Chadron State
LB	Michael Walton	JR	Eastern New Mexico
LB	Matt Chatham	SR	South Dakota
DB	Nick Roberts	SR	Westminster College
DB	Barry Threats	SR	Indiana (PA)
DB	Jamey Hutchinson	SR	Winona State
DB	Marcus Hill	SR	North Alabama
P	Brian Moorman	SR	Pittsburg State

DIVISION III

Western Maryland will end Mount Union's reign as champion.

BY MIKE GOENS

FLORENCE TIMESDAILY

Tim Keating and Western Maryland are hoping there's a place for them at the top in 1998. Once considered a must for opponents' homecoming festivities, the Green Terror is no longer a weakling.

"If you're going to run with the big dogs, you've got to get off the porch," said Keating, who has orchestrated an abrupt turnaround in the program. "You've got to be careful or you'll get bitten, but we certainly want to be able to run with those programs."

That statement is a far cry from the mid-1980s, when the Terror held the distinction of having lost 29 in a row.

GAMES TO WATCH

Mount Union at Albion, September 12

Washington and Jefferson at Allegheny, September 12

Rowan at College of New Jersey, October 2

St. John's at Augsburg, October 3

John Carroll at Mount Union, October 3

Dickinson at Western Maryland, October 17

Lycoming at Widener, October 24

Hanover at Wabash November 7

Wisconsin-LaCrosse at Wisconsin-Whitewater, November 14

Catholic at Albright, November 14

WESTERN MARYLAND is among a dozen or so teams that will try to end an impressive two-year championship reign by Mount Union. Coach Tim Keating says the Purple Raiders were in a league of their own last season during a 14-0 campaign.

"They're still the team to beat as far as I'm concerned," he said. "We'd love to be mentioned as possible contenders, but it's going to be quite a chore to survive our own conference."

The Green Terror went 10-0 before losing in the opening round of the playoffs. They welcome back 17 starters. That list of returnees would have been even more impressive had the squad not lost its No. 1 tailback, who opted to graduate early.

Quarterback Ron Sermarini was the Centennial League's best offensive player after throwing for 1,675 yards and 18 TDs. The team also returns an intact offensive line, led by Ryan Hines and Mat Mathias. Western Maryland was also second in total defense and returns tackle Zach Galemore, linebacker Tommy Selecky, and cornerback Marvin Deal.

LYCOMING (12-1) was the runner-up in a title race many conceded to Mount Union before last season began. The Warriors, who appeared in the title game for the second time this decade, have 18 regulars back, including quarterback Jason Marraccini (2,139 yards and 18 TDs), tailback Brian Thompson (1,446 yards and 10 TDs), and receiver Tim Dumas (58 catches for 1,093 yards). The defense centers around linemen Keith Jenkins and Cameron Coleman.

Despite losing starters at quarterback and running back, **ROWAN** remains a contender. The Profs (11-1) have seven starters back on each side of the ball. Burt Chaney leads an offensive line that returns all but one regular. William Spearman is a big-time passing threat. The defense allowed only 6.7 points per game. Tackle Alex Rodriguez had eight sacks.

Iowa has a championship contender in **SIMPSON**. The Storm set virtually every school offensive record during a 12-1 season, and eight players who started on the unit remain. Fullback Guy Lemon

rushed for 1,139 yards and added 38 receptions. Clint Head leads an offensive line that returns intact. Free safety Kenny Fry had 121 tackles and broke up 21 passes. Joe Beschorner and Zach George are other key defenders.

MOUNT UNION suffered heavy losses, especially on offense, but the Raiders are capable of winning a third straight title. Mount Union is 94-6-1 in the 1990s, and many young players got a lot of experience while the team was easily extending its win streak to 28 games. But only three offensive starters return. As a result, the defense must carry the load. Linebacker Jason Hall is as good as they come. Tackles B.J. Payne and safety Kris Bugara also remain.

Blair Hrovat takes over as coach at **ALLEGHENY**, but the expectations have not changed. The Gators (9-2) seek their seventh straight playoff appearance. A defensive unit that returns 10 regulars is the key. Safeties Tedd Gozur and Matt Pierce and linebackers Corey Belaney and P.J. McGowan head the group. If a new quarterback and tailback can be found to complement six offensive returnees, the Gators will be set. Tight end Nathan Six (41 catches for 438 yards) and guard Zach Kessler are superb.

After a down year, **ALBION** (6-3) hopes to return as Michigan's best. Seventeen starters are back, led by tailback Virgil Petty (1,111 yards and 21 TDs) and defensive linemen Mick Rennick (8 sacks) and Pat Slone. Offensive lineman Jason Carriveau received All-America status two years ago.

JOHN CARROLL knocked on the championship door last year by taking a 10-2 team to the national quarterfinals. With 14 starters back, Tony DeCarlo says this could be the most complete team he has coached. Nine of those returning regulars are on offense, led by quarterback Nick Caserio (2,075 yards and 18 TDs). John Priestap and Tom Koltz are the primary targets. Douglas Moore heads the defense.

The team of the decade in the 1980s was **AUGUSTANA**, and now the Vikings look to leave their mark.

Keith Jenkins, Lycoming





Jason Hall, Mount Union

in the '90s. They return 18 starters from a 7-2 club that won the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin. Eight are back on an offense that was fourth in the nation in rushing. Guard Chris Meskan and tackle Brian Gosnell lead the way for quarterback Joe Schmulbach, who had more rushing than passing yards. End Mark Strobbe and linebacker Jim King are defensive leaders.

TRINITY (10-1) played in the quarterfinals last year and has 13 starters back. Quarterback Mike Burton is expected to pass more often, but replacing three offensive linemen will be critical. The defense has talent in linebacker Jeremy Day and back Alex Doran. Place-kicker Paul Morris is also a threat.

CATHOLIC (10-1) lost key players from an offense that averaged nearly 43 points a game. Center Andrew Notarfrancesco is back with three linemen. Nine starters, including linebacker Brian Hee and Richard Change, remain on defense.

Defense will carry **WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON** (6-3). The unit ranked ninth nationally and returns eight regulars. Linebackers Harry Silvis and Kevin O'Malley and lineman Rahmaire Brooks lead the way. Quarterback Brad O'Malley and running backs Jason Barr and Brian Gomez carry the offensive load.

WISCONSIN-LACROSSE will try to improve on a 7-2 season. The defense will be as good as any with safety Mike Scheuer rejoining linebacker Mike Deans and six other starters. The offense will be young, but if Jason Wucki comes through at quarterback, the Eagles will compete.

HANOVER got a good taste of success last fall by going 10-1 and advancing to the playoffs. Three offensive weapons—quarterback Chris Stormer (2,994 yards and 23 TDs), wingback Tarrick Wilson (77 catches for 985 yards), and running back Bill Wilcox (12 TDs)—lead the Panthers. Jeff Hicks heads the defense.

After a 9-1 season, the **COLLEGE OF WOOSTER** has 10 regulars back on an offense that scored 35 points and gained 400 yards per game. Rich Judd completed 54 percent of his passes for 21 scores. Brandon Good caught 60 passes. Seth Duerr and Brad Horst head the defense.

AUGSBURG shook Minnesota with a 10-2 mark and its first NCAA appearance. Paul Tetzloff will be looking often for Scott Hvistendahl (84 catches for 1,329 yards and 15 TDs). Four linemen return. Jake Kern, who had seven interceptions, leads the defense.

DICKINSON has 16 starters from a 7-3 squad, including six of the top seven rushers return. Backs Bob Chesney and Adrian Young lead the defensive unit.

Ten years ago, **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** (8-2) won the Division II national title. Now the Choctaws hope to duplicate the feat in Division III. Transfer Shane Tipper could answer questions at quarterback. The rest of the unit is solid with tailback Jimmy Dottolo and receivers Matt Murphy and Vance Andry. Bryant Shaw and Michael Brown lead the defense.

The Ohio Athletic Conference has another team to join Mount Union and John Carroll as possible contenders. **OHIO NORTHERN** (8-2) appears loaded, with quarterback Joe Zarlinga (2,349 yards and 22 TDs) and receiver Steve Vagedes. Defensive tackle Len VanDeVelde (5.5 sacks) and a deep linebacking corp head that unit.

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY (9-3) has appeared in consecutive NCAA playoffs but must overcome the loss of 15 players. The ground game will be critical with Jason Cooper and Gregg Carlucci leading the way. The defense revolves around Tom Ruggia (19 sacks) and Mike Feeney.

Fifteen starters are back at **WITTEMBERG** (9-1), including nine from a defense that forced 37 turnovers. Ken Pope and Chris Coleman key the unit. The combo of Shaun Brown (1,869 and 24 TDs) and Russ Fedyk (53 catches for 954) paces the

offense. Aaron Shaffer is strong up front.

WISCONSIN-WHITETWATER (9-1) has the kind of defense that could carry a team far. The unit, which has eight starters back, has standouts in linebacker Art Gutierrez, back Jake Wolter, and lineman Andre Bennett. The offense is led by quarterback Ty Grovesteen and lineman Jason Bartolotta.

SAINT JOHN'S (6-4) has key personnel in defensive ends Eric Serbus and Darwin Dumonceaux and linebacker Brandon Novak. Receiver Adam Herbst and back Ronald Buller pace the offense.

The top team in the West will likely be **REDLANDS** (7-2), which is led by quarterback Marty Rincon and receiver Brian Hayes. Lineman Israel Arciniega is superb up front. Dempsey Holder and Tim Sikorski pace the defense.

ADRIAN (8-1) allowed just 276 yards per game last fall. Linemen Ed Kennedy and Tim Moore and linebacker Craig Weigel are solid. Only five starters return on offense, but one of them is quarterback Don Hutchison (1,887 yards).

THE BEST OF THE REST

EMORY AND HENRY has excellent players to build around in DE Mike Kassnove and RB Oliver Jordan. **THOMAS MORE** last made it to the playoffs in 1992, but 17 starters, including LB Wells and TB William Castleberry (1,184 yards), return.

WIDENER has a history of success, and the Pioneers return 21 players with starting experience from a 7-3 squad. **GUILFORD** was 8-2 and retains 15 regulars. It just needs to find a QB. **CARNEGIE MELLON** will be a title contender with 15 starters back from a 7-3 season. The same is true at **WARTBURG** (7-3).

The key will be the offensive line. **BALDWIN-WALLACE** plays in the nation's toughest conference, with Mount Union, John Carroll, and Northern Ohio. The Yellow Jackets will be strong, led by QB Josh Purdy and LB Brian Dever. **MORAVIAN** has high expectations with 19 starters back. **BUFFALO STATE** is young but talented.

DIVISION III ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Matt Bunyan	SR	Wisconsin-Stout
RB	Brian Thompson	SR	Lycoming
RB	Jason Brader	SR	Muhlenberg
WR	Scott Pingel	JR	Westminster
WR	Scott Hvistendahl	SR	Augsburg
TE	Matt Surette	SR	Worcester Poly Institute
OL	Zach Kessler	SR	Allegheny
OL	Jason Carriveau	SR	Albion
OL	Clint Head	SR	Simpson
OL	Chris Meskan	SR	Augustana
OL	Burt Chaney	SR	Rowan
PK	Ryan Boutwell	SR	Gustavus Adolphus

DEFENSE

DL	Tom Ruggia	SR	College of New Jersey
DL	Alex Rodriguez	SR	Rowan
DL	Keith Jenkins	SR	Lycoming
DL	Mike Kassnove	SR	Emory and Henry
LB	Jason Hall	SR	Mount Union
LB	Chris Wells	SR	Thomas More
LB	Tommy Selecky	JR	Western Maryland
DB	Alex Doran	SR	Trinity (TX)
DB	Ken Fry	SR	Simpson
DB	Mike Scheuer	SR	Wisconsin-LaCrosse
DB	Ken Pope	SR	Wittenberg
P	Josh Schneider	SO	John Carroll

STREET & SMITH'S 1998 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

by Doug Huff, Wheeling Intelligencer

A left-handed quarterback with dead-eye passing accuracy and National Football League bloodlines is featured on Street & Smith's 17th annual High School All-America Team.

Chris Simms, a 6-5, 210-pound son of ex-NFL quarterback Phil Simms, enters his fourth season as a starter at Ramapo High in Franklin Lakes, NJ, and is one of four quarterbacks on the preseason listing of 50 honorees (from 26 states), which are determined by consultation with prep coaches and writers, recruiting services, and national observers.

Twenty-four of the selections hail from six states. Six honorees compete in California, five in Florida, four in Texas, and three each in Georgia, Louisiana, and Illinois.

While recruitment of many of the top 50 will continue until the NCAA national letter-of-intent date in February, two of the honorees gave verbal commitments to colleges before finishing their junior year in high school. Quarterback Rex Grossman of Bloomington, IN, South, opted for the University of Florida and running back Kelton Lindsey of Lebanon, Ohio, said "yes" to Ohio State.

Here's a position-by-position breakdown on the top 50 honorees:

QUARTERBACKS

Simms led Ramapo High to an 11-0 record and Group III title last season and could be the New Jersey team to beat this fall. The lefty passed for 1,855 yards and 22 TDs with only four interceptions while completing 62 percent of his passes. As a sophomore, he completed 70 percent with 16 TDs and only two interceptions.

The West Coast's version of Simms is Chris Lewis of Long Beach, CA, Poly, one of the nation's top all-sports programs. Lewis, who is also a volleyball

standout, led the Jackrabbits to a 14-0 record, a Southern Section Division I title, and a No. 5 ranking in the national prep poll. Lewis completed 151 of 275 passes for 2,907 yards and 32 TDs with only six interceptions. As a sophomore, he passed for 2,500 yards and 32 TDs, including seven in one game.

Grossman enters his fourth season as a regular at South, which finished a 14-1 record last season as state Class 5A runner-up. The Florida recruit has passed for 4,400 career yards and 53 TDs with only 13 interceptions. He hit 120 of 218 pass-

TOP 10 FRESHMAN CLASSES

1. Michigan
2. UCLA
3. Notre Dame
4. Georgia
5. Florida State
6. Alabama
7. Florida
8. Tennessee
9. LSU
10. North Carolina and Nebraska (tie)

es for 2,014 yards and 32 TDs with only five interceptions last fall.

The most athletic quarterback could be Rod Rutherford of Perry Academy in Pittsburgh, PA. He led his team to a 14-1 record and state Class 3A runner-up spot last season while gaining over 1,000 yards rushing and passing. In addition, he handles free-safety duties on defense and returns kicks. An all-city basketball performer, he also is a baseball standout.

RUNNING BACKS

The top college prospects in six different states are running backs. Cedric Cobbs of Little Rock Fair in Arkansas is a three-sport performer and decathlete in track who averaged 11.8 yards a carry with 1,723 rushing yards and 16 TDs in 10 games as a junior.

Daniel Davis of Stafford, VA, Brooke Point enters his final season with 5,090 yards on 577 rushes and has scored 65 TDs. He opened some eyes with 2,225 rushing yards as a sophomore but nursed some injuries last season while averaging 8.3 yards a carry and scoring 20 TDs.

Troy Fleming of Franklin, TN, Battle Ground Academy is a three-sport performer and do-it-all football player who is on track to break the state career rushing records. He set a state season mark with 2,817 yards and 40 TDs on 291 carries before rushing 269 times for 2,775 yards and 39 TDs last fall in 13 games.

Lindsey, the Ohio State recruit, is a track sprinter who averaged 8.9 yards a carry while scoring 41 TDs in 13 games a year ago after he ran for 1,462 yards as a sophomore. Like Fleming and Davis, he's a standout defender as well.

Nick Maddox of Kannapolis, NC, A.L. Brown High, led his team to the state Class 3A crown while scoring 45 TDs in 16 games. He rushed for 2,345 yards and 32 TDs, had nine touchdown catches, and returned four kicks for TDs. His career numbers include 4,464 yards on 583 rushes and 75 TDs.

Jamar Mozee of Blue Springs, MO, was the state player of the year and a track sprinter. He rushed 324 times for 2,230 yards and 26 TDs in 12 games as a junior and anchors the Missouri team to beat this fall.

Other touted running backs include Atari Callen of Concord, CA, De La Salle; Jason Geathers of Boca Raton, FL, Spanish River; and LaBrandon Toefield of

STREET & SMITH'S TOP 50 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OF 1998

QUARTERBACKS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Rex Grossman	6-2	190	South	Bloomington, IN
Chris Lewis	6-4	200	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Rod Rutherford	6-3	195	Perry	Pittsburgh, PA
Chris Simms	6-5	210	Ramapo	Franklin Lakes, NJ

RUNNING BACKS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Atari Callen	5-10	180	De La Salle	Concord, CA
Cedric Cobbs	6-2	215	Fair	Little Rock, AR
Daniel Davis	6-0	210	Brooke Point	Stafford, VA
Troy Fleming	6-3	210	Battle Ground Academy	Franklin, TN
Jason Geathers	6-3	220	Spanish River	Boca Raton, FL
Kelton Lindsey	6-1	190	Lebanon	Lebanon, OH
Nick Maddox	5-11	190	A. L. Brown	Kannapolis, NC
Jamar Mozee	6-0	205	Blue Springs	Blue Springs, MO
LaBrandon Toefield	6-0	225	Independence	Independence, LA

UTILITY PLAYERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Darin Naatjes	6-6	230	West Lyon	Inwood, IA
Michael Waddell	6-1	175	Richmond	Rockingham, NC
Dontae Walker	5-10	200	Clinton	Clinton, MS

WIDE RECEIVERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Reggie Brown	6-1	185	Carrollton	Carrollton, GA
DeAndre Green	6-2	210	Blount	Prichard, AL

TIGHT ENDS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Eric Edwards	6-6	235	Ouachita Christian	Monroe, LA
Mike Seidman	6-5	235	Westlake	Westlake Village, CA
Derek Smith	6-6	235	Highlands	Fort Thomas, KY

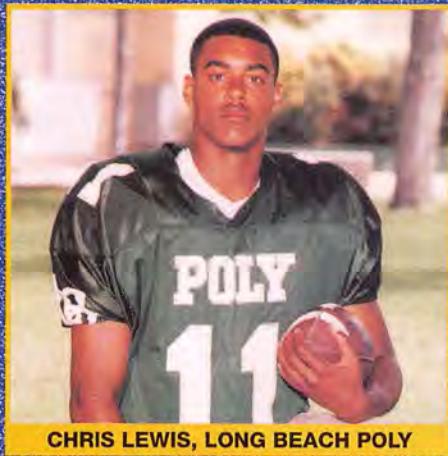
KICKER	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Danny Haynes	5-11	200	Brooks	Killen, AL
Luke Mangat	6-0	180	Rockdale County	Conyers, GA
Nick Setta	6-0	170	Lockport	Lockport, IL

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Ben Carber	6-3	300	Central Bucks West	Doylestown, PA
Robbie Doane	6-7	270	Coppell	Coppell, TX
Jeff Faine	6-3	300	Seminole	Sanford, FL
Keith Leavitt	6-8	290	Fitchburg	Fitchburg, MA
Brandon Macias	6-7	320	Los Altos	Hacienda Heights, CA
Matt McIntosh	6-8	290	Arrowhead	Hartland, WI
Tony Pape	6-6	290	Hinsdale South	Darien, IL
Alfio Randle	6-5	270	Yates	Houston, TX

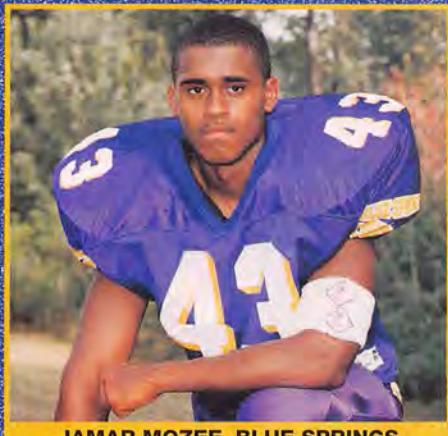
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Tony Aguilar	6-5	300	Superior	Superior, AZ
Darnell Dockett	6-4	255	Paint Branch	Burtonsville, MD
Albert Haynesworth	6-6	285	Hartsville	Hartsville, SC
Bernard Riley	6-3	310	Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos, CA
Jeremy Williams	6-5	250	Ferris	Spokane, WA
Walter Young	6-5	280	Purvis	Purvis, MS

LINEBACKERS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Solomon Bates	6-2	210	Canyon Springs	Moreno Valley, CA
T.J. Duckett	6-4	240	Loy Norrix	Kalamazoo, MI
Antwan Fleming	6-3	240	Plant City	Plant City, FL
Elmer Holmes	6-0	215	Osborn	Manassas, VA
Kendyll Pope	6-2	210	Columbia	Lake City, FL
Shawn Price	6-3	230	Haddon Heights	Haddon Heights, NJ
Corey Redding	6-5	235	North Shore	Houston, TX

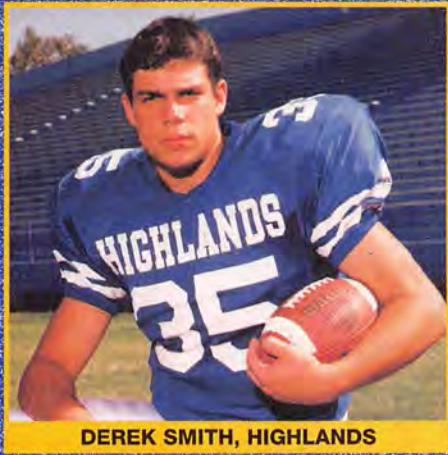
DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Domanick Davis	5-10	200	Breaux Bridge	Breaux Bridge, LA
Richard McNutt	6-0	165	Rich East	Park Forest, IL
Jeremy Muyres	6-3	180	Parkview	Lilburn, GA
Gerome Sapp	6-1	200	Lamar	Houston, TX
Lito Sheppard	5-11	185	Raines	Jacksonville, FL



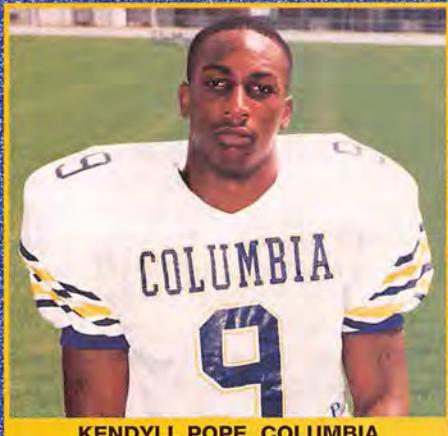
CHRIS LEWIS, LONG BEACH POLY



JAMAR MOZEE, BLUE SPRINGS



DEREK SMITH, HIGHLANDS

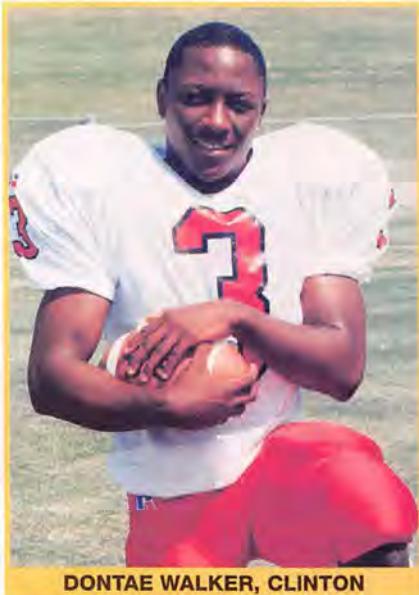


KENDYLL POPE, COLUMBIA

Independence, LA.

Callen enters his third season as a starter on a Spartan team riding a national-best 76-game victory streak and could be the nation's No. 1 preseason National Prep Poll choice after ranking third a year ago. Callen, another standout track sprinter, was slowed by injuries last fall but scored 29 TDs and ran for 1,123 yards in 12 games.

Geathers may be shifted to quarterback this season after starting three years



DONTAE WALKER, CLINTON

as a running back while rushing for over 3,200 yards. Also a basketball performer, he's considered versatile enough to play wide receiver at the college level.

Toefield, a three-sport star, led his team to a 14-1 record and state Class 3A runner-up finish while rushing for 3,300 yards and 41 TDs. As a sophomore, the all-stater gained 1,800 yards and scored 28 TDs.

UTILITY PLAYERS

Iowa's top two-sport athlete is Darin Naatjes of Inwood West Lyon. A two-way end and kick returner in football, he's also considered a pro baseball prospect. As a football tight end last season, he caught 24 passes for 460 yards and five TDs and returned 10 punts for 275 yards and a TD.

Richmond Senior High of Rockingham, NC, recorded a 15-0 record, a state Class 4A title, and a No. 8 National Prep Poll ranking. A key contributor was Michael Waddell, who returned a state-record nine kicks for TDs and also had seven interceptions as a defensive back.

Donta Walker of Clinton, MS, was the only junior first-team all-stater a year ago after rushing for 2,042 yards and 28 TDs. He's also a track standout.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Bount High of Prichard, AL, will seek a third straight state Class 5A title this season. A major contributor will be all-stater DeAndre Green, who caught 72 passes for 813 yards and 18 TDs as a junior.

A three-sport Carrollton, GA, player is also one of the state's top football prospects. Reggie Brown caught 66 passes for 1,200 yards last season, started on a 28-2 basketball team, and qualified in four events at the state track meet, where he set a Georgia long-jump record of 24-feet, 9-inches as a sophomore.

TIGHT ENDS

Eric Edwards earned Class 2A all-state honors at Ouachita Christian in Monroe, LA, and is rated one of the top blockers by recruiters.

Mike Seidman of Westlake High in Westlake Village, CA, has attracted nationwide recruiting attention after grabbing 51 passes for 757 yards and two TDs as a junior.

Derek Smith of Fort Thomas, KY, Highlands is a football/basketball all-stater who might opt for both sports in college. A two-way end and punter, he caught 34 passes for 841 yards and 13 TDs last season and recorded seven sacks on defense.

KICKERS

Danny Haynes of Killen, AL, Brooks, has kicked 25 field goals in three seasons while missing only one conversion and having no kickoffs returned. He had field goals of 54 and 52 yards last fall.

Luke Manget of Congers, GA, Rockdale County converted 12 of 16 field goals a year ago, including boots of 58, 55, and 53 yards.

Nick Setta of Lockport, IL, might be the best punter/place-kicker around. As a junior he averaged 46.5 yards per punt and kicked 11 field goals. He set a state record as a sophomore with a 59-yard field goal.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

The top prospects from three states (Illinois, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin) are a trio of 290-pounders blockers: Tony Pape of Darien, IL, Hinsdale South; Keith Leavitt of Fitchburg, MA; and Matt McIntosh of Hartland, WI, Arrowhead.

Pape was an all-state blocker as a junior and also played defensive end. Leavitt is a versatile athlete who competes in basketball and track. McIntosh is considered on a par with older brother Chris, a team co-captain at the Uni-

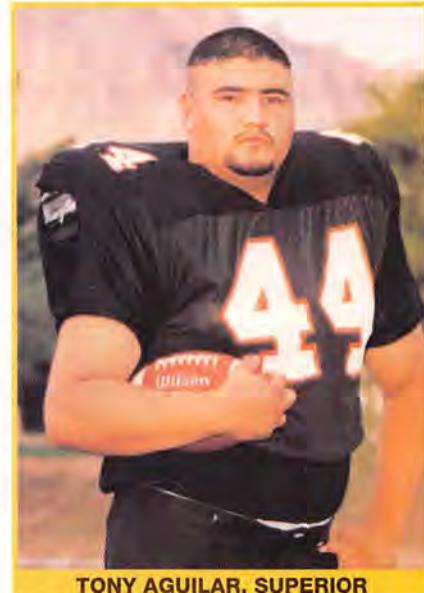
versity of Wisconsin.

Also, touted linemen from Texas, California, Florida, and Pennsylvania rate honors. Texas produced two highly rated prospects in Robbie Doane of Coppell and Alfio Randle of Houston Yates. Brandon Macias of Hacienda Heights, CA, Los Altos is the heaviest selection. Returning all-staters include Jeff Faine from Sanford, FL, Seminole, and Ben Carber from Doylestown, PA, Central Bucks West, which capped a 15-0 season with a state Class 4A title and No. 11 National Prep Poll ranking.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Tony Aguilar of Superior, AZ, at 6-5 and 300 pounds, might be the nation's biggest shortstop. But he's also an all-state basketball and football player. A two-way end and defensive tackle, he had 19 sacks, forced seven fumbles, and blocked four kicks last season. On offense, he caught 38 passes for 600 yards and seven TDs and rushed for three TDs on goal-line situations.

The top prospects in South Caroli-



TONY AGUILAR, SUPERIOR

na, Washington, and Maryland are also pass rushers. Albert Haynesworth of Hartsville, SC, had 51 quarterback hurries as a junior when he caused six fumbles. Jeremy Williams of Spokane, WA, Ferris averaged 10 tackles a game. Walter Dockett of Burtonsville, MD, Paint Branch had 11 sacks from his end position as a junior.

Walter Young of Purvis, MS, and Bernard Riley of Los Alamitos, CA, are attracting widespread recruiting interest. Young, a three-sport performer, was a second team all-stater. Riley is rated the top defensive lineman in California.

LINEBACKERS

TJ. Duckett calls signals on both sides of the ball for Loy Norrix High of Kalamazoo, MI. He's a quarterback/middle linebacker. On defense last season, he was in on 194 tackles, including 14 for losses. The brother of Michigan State running back Tico Duckett also competes in basketball, baseball, and track and won the state shot put title as a sophomore with a 63-foot, 6-inch toss.

Florida is home to two cited defenders: Kendyll Pope of Lake City Columbia and Antwan Fleming of Plant City. Both earned first-team Class 6A all-state accolades as juniors and have recruiters working overtime. Pope had 111 tackles and 86 assists for the state runner-up. Fleming, and also competes in basketball and track, recorded 109 stops and has over 200 for his career.

The "best in the West" tag goes to Solomon Bates of Canyon Springs High in Moreno Valley, who is receiving coast-to-coast recruiting attention. Corey Redding of Houston, TX, North Shore led his team in tackles last fall and returned three of four interceptions for touchdowns.

Shawn Price of Haddon Heights, NJ, is a three-sport standout and blends speed and strength as a sprinter-weightman in track. He has over 50 career sacks. Elmer Holmes of Manassas, VA, Osbourn will be bidding for his fourth all-state defensive honor and also has rushed for 2,220 yards and 24 TDs on 359 carries.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Parkview High of Lilburn, GA, will be favored to repeat as state Class 4A champion with the return of its skill-position players, including all-stater Jeremy Muyres, who intercepted 14 passes as a junior.

Lito Sheppard helped Jacksonville, FL, Raines win the state Class 4A crown while scoring 12 TDs four ways—receiving, kick returns, rushing, and interceptions. He is also a standout track sprinter.

Domanick Davis of Breaux Bridge, LA, earned all-state honors after intercepting eight passes and making 111 tackles a year ago.

Richard McNutt of Park Forest, IL, Rich East is a do-it-all three-sport standout who scored 13 touchdowns and intercepted eight passes as a junior all-state honoree.

Gerome Sapp of Houston, TX, Lamar was his team's top tackler as a hard-hitting safety and earned all-Metro honors in his competitive area.

OTHER PREP SENIORS TO WATCH IN '98

QUARTERBACKS

	high school	hometown	Brent Cummings	Belding	Belding, MI
Gerry Ahrens	Male	Louisville, KY	Dan Davis	Hayden	Topeka, KS
Ryan Belicic	Central Dauphin	Harrisburg, PA	Jason Davis	Southridge	Miami, FL
Scott Brown	Streamwood	Streamwood, IL	Robert Drake	Westchester	Los Angeles, CA
Brian Camp	Coffman	Dublin, OH	Reggie Duncan	Ellison	Killeen, TX
Zak Clark	Fayetteville	Fayetteville, AR	Doug Easlick	Cherokee	Marlton, NJ
Shaun Coleman	Regis	Aurora, CO	Ryan Fagan	Harlan	Harlan, IA
Carl Crawford	Davis	Houston, TX	Brian Flores	Poly Prep	Brooklyn, NY
Nick Czernek	Newbury Park	Newbury Park, CA	Sydney Ford	Pepperell	Linddale, GA
Ken Dorsey	Miramonte	Orinda, CA	Aaron Greving	Ames	Ames, IA
Nick Dugas	Crowley	Crowley, LA	Chuck Griffy	Perry	Pittsburgh, PA
Jake Eaton	Rutland	Rutland, VT	Richard Hall	Wyomin	Cincinnati, OH
Brandon Everidge	Granger	Granger, TX	Marcus Hairston	Martinsville	Martinsville, VA
Kevin Fant	Moss Point	Moss Point, MS	Akil Harris	Monrovia	Monrovia, CA
Colby Freeman	Brownwood	Brownwood, TX	Harvey Howard	Carol City	Miami, FL
Luis Gonzalez	Coral Park	Miami, FL	Todd Howard	Riverdale	Murfreesboro, TN
Andy Hall	Cheraw	Cheraw, SC	Kenny Hyter	Cypress Falls	Houston, TX
Blake Hardin	Rutherford	Springfield, FL	Joe Igber	Iolani	Honolulu, HI
Lafrez Harrison	Washington	Atlanta, GA	Rashad Jackson	Biloxi	Biloxi, MS
J.R. House	Nitro	Nitro, WV	Julius Jones	Powell Valley	Big Stone Gap, VA
Benji Kamrath	Mayville	Mayville, WI	Mike Kitchen	Lebanon	Lebanon, PA
Craig Krenzel	Ford	Utica, MI	Jesse Kline	Upper Arlington	Upper Arlington, OH
C.J. Leak	Independence	Charlotte, NC	Brian Lewis	Pattonville	Maryland Heights, MO
Brian Lindgren	DeSales	Walla Walla, WA	E.J. Lilly	Alliance	Alliance, OH
Jared Lorenzen	Highlands	Fort Thomas, KY	Nick Mangosing	Apollo	Glendale, AZ
Daniel Lunney	Southside	Fort Smith, AR	Nate Meikle	Hillcrest	Hillcrest, UT
Eli Manning	Newman	New Orleans, LA	Brandon Miree	Winton Woods	Cincinnati, OH
Chris Massey	Spiro	Spiro, OK	Tory Mitchell	Big Spring	Big Spring, TX
Andy Mignery	Hamilton	Hamilton, OH	Melvin McCullar	Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie, TX
Andy Paine	Cedar Crest	Lebanon, PA	Donta Murray	Spanish River	Boca Raton, FL
Casey Printers	DeSoto	DeSoto, TX	Arnold Parker	Cimarron	Las Vegas, NV
Eli Roberson	Lee	Baytown, TX	T.J. Phillips	Sharon	Sharon, PA
Andy Roesch	Galion	Galion, OH	Andrew Pinnock	Bloomfield	Bloomfield, CT
Matt Schaub	East	Westchester, PA	Bobby Pollard	Westbrook	Beaumont, TX
Ryan Schneider	Plantation	Plantation, FL	Bernard Rambert	Summerville	Summerville, SC
Willie Simmons	Shanks	Quincy, FL	Chesaurae Rhodes	Redford	Detroit, MI
Chris Stephens	Buchholz	Gainesville, FL	Brandon Robinson	Heritage	Indianapolis, IN
Mike Strack	Centennial	Peoria, AZ	Justin Ruggio	Providence	New Lenox, IL
A.J. Suggs	McEachern	Powder Springs, GA	Fred Russell	Romulus	Romulus, MI
Nate Vogel	Southern Door	Brussels, WI	Jeff Sanchez	Hannan	Hannan, LA
Doug Waechter	Northeast	St. Petersburg, FL	Terry Sheffield	Freedom	Morganton, NC
Fabian Walker	Americus	Americus, GA	Golinsky Smith	Sylacauga	Sylacauga, AL
Jason White	Tuttle	Tuttle, OK	Onterrio Smith	Grant	Sacramento, CA
			Naufahu Tahi	Granger	Granger, UT
			Fred Talley	Longview	Longview, TX
			Thomas Tapeh	Johnson	St. Paul, MN
			Lee Thompson	Liberty	Liberty, MO
			Bruce Thornton	LaGrange	LaGrange, GA
			Greg Toal	Ramapo	Franklin Lakes, NJ
			Bobby Wade	Desert Vista	Tempe, AZ
			Michael Wagner	Bishop Amat	La Puente, CA
			Richard Whitaker	Jacksonville	Jacksonville, TX
			Ivan Williams	Cleveland	Cleveland, TX
			Shaud Williams	Andrews	Andrews, TX
			Quincy Wilson	Weir	Weirton, WV
			Chris Yura	Morgantown	Morgantown, WV

continued

seniors **high school** **hometown**
UTILITY PLAYERS

Derek Abney	D.C. Everest	Schofield, WI
Leroy Ambush	Thomas Jefferson	Frederick, MD
Jesse Avant	Ben Davis	Indianapolis, IN
Ellison Collins	Huntsville	Huntsville, TX
Quentus Cumby	Cleburne	Cleburne, TX
Almondo Curry	Hampton	Hampton, VA
Charles Davis	Waxahachie	Waxahachie, TX
Ryan Dinwiddie	Elk Grove	Elk Grove, CA
Marcus Ellerbe	Richmond	Rockingham, NC
Ty Gifford	Southeast	Lincoln, NE
Rashad Jackson	Biloxi	Biloxi, MS
Darryl Kennedy	Plainfield	Plainfield, NJ
Brent Mack	Central	Fairfield, SC
Eric Mickelson	Menomonie	Menomonie, WI
Derrick Mills	Carter	Dallas, TX
Kunle Patrick	Poly Prep	Brooklyn, NY
Jarrett Payton	St. Viator	Arlington Heights, IL
Tremain Straughter	DuPont	Belle, WV
Art Thomas	Cumberland Valley	Mechanicsburg, PA
Deryck Toles	Harding	Warren, OH
Brandon Tomerlin	Superior	Superior, AZ
Wade Turner	Lackawanna	Lackawanna, NY
Brad Van Pelt	San Marcos	Santa Barbara, CA
Marquis Walden	Mainland	Daytona Beach, FL

WIDE RECEIVERS

Jarius Arie	Shady Side Academy	Pittsburgh, PA
Lorenzo Banks	Colquitt County	Moultrie, GA
Kevin Beard	Plantation	Plantation, FL
Octavius Bond	Mt. Carmel	Chicago, IL
Tarron Brooks	McCallum	Austin, TX
Tyrece Butler	Decatur Central	Indianapolis, IN
Ray Cathie	North Catholic	Pittsburgh, PA
Ryshaun Conover	Lakewood	Lakewood, NJ
Artie Ellis	Westfield	Spring, TX
Anthony Floyd	Chaney	Youngstown, OH
Damien Gary	Clarke Central	Athens, GA
Antonio Grant	Central	Battle Creek, MI
Andrae Harrison	Warwick	Newport News, VA
Keith Hemmings	Woodbridge	Woodbridge, NJ
Lee Jackson	Marietta	Marietta, GA
Ben Johnson	De LaSalle	Minneapolis, MN
Andre Johnson	Miami Senior	Miami, FL
Bryant Johnson	City College	Baltimore, MD
Kareem Kelly	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Anthony Lawston	Eastern Tech	Baltimore, MD
Maurice Lee	South	Cleveland, OH
Jerry Owens	Hart	Newhall, CA
Jamel Riddle	Platt	Milford, CT
Durell Robinson	Byrnes	Duncan, SC
Jon Schweighardt	Warrenville South	Wheaton, IL
Jermaine Sheppard	Clinton	Clinton, TN
Yaakov Israel	Palatine	Palatine, IL

TIGHT ENDS

Tim Frost	East	Youngstown, OH
Michael Gaines	Florida High	Tallahassee, FL
Gary Godsey	Jesuit	Tampa, FL
Monteil Green	Buena Vista	Saginaw, MI
Mike Harrington	Rose	Greenville, NC
Robert Johnson	Jeff Davis	Montgomery, AL
Tory Johnson	South Broward	Hollywood, FL

Tony Katic	Freeport	Freeport, PA
Aaron Lumpkin	Madison	Trotwood, OH
Jesse Mayfield	Ben Davis	Indianapolis, IN
Willie Metcalf	Belmont	Dayton
Mitch Novak	West	Glenbard, IL
Jason Rader	St. Albans	St. Albans, WV
Bo Scaife	Mullen	Denver, CO
Josh Shavies	Fremont	Oakland, CA
Tim Sommer	Penn	Mishawaka, IN
Josh Tucker	Moore	Moore, OK
Benjamin Watson	Northwestern	Rock Hill, SC
Shane Williams	Shiloh Christian	Springdale, AR

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Sam Aiello	Streamwood	Streamwood, IL
Mike Aikens	Canisius	Buffalo, NY
Neal Ambron	Littleton	Littleton, CO
Lamont Anderson	Nimitz	Irving, TX
Jason Baksas	Homewood-Flossmoor	Flossmoor, IL
Kelvin Banks	Aldine	Aldine, TX
Josh Beckham	Yucca Valley	Yucca Valley, CA
Josh Billue	Guntersville	Guntersville, AL
Bryce Bishop	Killian	Miami, FL
Mark Bokermann	Jesuit	St. Louis, MO
Jamie Bopp	Snider	Fort Wayne, IN
Kevin Breedlove	Daniel	Central, SC
Sean Bubin	Rantoul	Rantoul, IL
Vernon Carey	Northwestern	Miami, FL
Adrien Clarke	Shaker Heights	Shaker Heights, OH
Brannen Curtis	Benjamin	North Palm Beach, FL
Adam Densmore	Boulder	Boulder, CO
Derrick Dockery	Lakeview Centennial	Garland, TX
Rob Droege	Lindbergh	St. Louis, MO
Dante Ellington	Colbert County	Leighton, AL
Alonzo Ephraim	Wenonah	Birmingham, AL
Eric Ferguson	Harrison	Harrison, MI
Nick Fisher	Mars	Mars, PA
Curtis Frye	Irmo	Columbia, SC
John Gardner	Olathe South	Olathe, KS
Ryan Gillis	DeMatha	Hyattsville, MD
John Glass	Dieruff	Allentown, PA
Tim Green	Westside	Omaha, NE
Jamerio Hickman	Encinal	Alameda, CA
Singleton Hicks	Beechcroft	Columbus, OH
Aaron Hodges	Rich Central	Olympia Fields, IL
Earl Hull	Central	Elkhart, IN
Paul Hurley	Walpole	Walpole, MA
Alex Jackson	Shanks	Quincy, FL
Kelvin Johnson	Huguenot	Richmond, VA
Nick Johnson	Mingus Union	Cottonwood, AZ
Mike Kosiak	Sandburg	Orland Park, IL
Eric Krauss	Bluefield	Bluefield, WV
Eugene Landon	Pattonville	Maryland Heights, MO
Shane Lehman	Corona	Corona, CA
Ryan Lengyel	McLean	McLean, VA
Chris Loos	Southeast	Lincoln, NE
Jake Lulich	South Park	Library, PA
Steve Mascorro	Del Valle	El Paso, TX
Tre Mathis	Garland	Garland, TX
Sean Milligan	Norcross	Norcross, GA
DeMarco Monroe	Central	Evansville, IN
Lawrence Oliver	Steel Valley	Munhall, PA
Brian Ottney	Troy	Troy, MI
Sean Owens	Bay	Panama City, FL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Tim Anderson	Clyde	Clyde, OH
John Bell	Medina	Medina, OH
Matt Birdseye	Turpin	Cincinnati, OH
Paul Broussard	LaPorte	LaPorte, TX
Andy Brown	Grand Ledge	Grand Ledge, MI
Howard Brown	Berkeley	St. Louis, MO
Mark Dreyer	Brighton	Brighton, CO
Ryan Duchon	Alliance	Alliance, OH
Jarom Fano	Fountain Valley	Fountain Valley, CA
Louis Gachelin	Jackson	Miami, FL
John Garrison	Blue Springs	Blue Springs, MO
Cedric Hilliard	Lamar	Arlington, TX
Aaron Jelsma	Oakdale	Oakdale, CA
Justin Johnson	Ripley	Ripley, WV
Marquis Johnson	Edison	Miami, FL
Damone Jones	Central	Philadelphia, PA
Jason Malakoski	Mt. Carmel	Mt. Carmel, PA
DeMarco McNeil	Blount	Prichard, AL
Greg Mills	Lincoln	Tallahassee, FL
Clint Mitchell	Countryside	Clearwater, FL
Shannon Mitchell	Navasota	Navasota, TX
Jim Molinaro	Bethlehem Catholic	Bethlehem, PA
Gabe Nyenhuis	St. Charles	St. Charles, IL
David Paine	Melrose	Memphis, TN
Bobby Parker	Provine	Jackson, MS
Robert Patton	Warren	Warren, AR
Brett Pierce	Columbia River	Vancouver, WA
Cole Pittman	Evangel Christian	Shreveport, LA
DeJuan Polk	Wadesboro	Wadesboro, NC
Rex Richards	Military	Roswell, NM
Donald Tucker	Tupelo	Tupelo, MS
Ray Turner	Clairton	Clairton, PA
Dominique Veney	Carroll	Washington, DC
Kelly Wall	Arapahoe	Littleton, CO
Brian West	West Monroe	Monroe, LA
Chad Williams	Muskegon	Muskegon, MI
Leslie Williams	Stone Mountain	Stone Mountain, GA
Roy Williams	DeLand	DeLand, FL
Courtney Young	Bartow	Bartow, FL
Kevin Young	Duncansville	Duncansville, TX
Chip Zosel	Marshfield	Coos Bay, OR

seniors **high school** **hometown**

LINEBACKERS

Jeremy Alfred	Ellison	Killeen, TX
Ian Bass	Brentwood Academy	Brentwood, TN
Mike Bestul	Chippewa Falls	Chippewa Falls, WI
Collin Blackburn	Sabino	Tucson, AZ
Corey Brown	Raines	Jacksonville, FL
Darrell Campbell	South Holland	Thornwood, IL
Corey Collier	Palmetto	Miami, FL
Devin Davis	McCallum	Austin, TX
Carl Diggs	Harding	Warren, OH
Sean Doyle	Rockhurst	Kansas City, MO
Tyrone Evans	Lincoln	Stockton, CA
Reggie Everett	Southridge	Miami, FL
Matt Farrior	Matoaca	Trick, VA
Treverance Faulk	Lafayette	Lafayette, LA
Jason Frederick	Cypress Falls	Houston, TX
Jarrett Green	Hampton	Hampton, VA
Obadiah Harris	Chillicothe	Chillicothe, OH
Marques Hayes	Southwestern	Flint, MI
Chris Hewitt	Rome	Rome, GA
Scott Holton	Marshwood	Eliot, ME
Jason Houghtaling	Windsor	Windsor, NY
Rodrick Hutchins	Carter	Dallas, TX
Tashambi Irving	Lincoln	Dallas, TX
Jarrett Johnson	Chiefland	Chiefland, FL
Patrick Klayo	Woods Tower	Warren, MI
Trahern LaFavor	Gibbons	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Kevin Mitchell	Mater Dei	Santa Ana, CA
Jay McBride	North	Parkway, MO
Tim Messner	East Islip	East Islip, NY
Jared Morris	Brownwood	Brownwood, TX
Mike Natiel	Newberry	Newberry, FL
Pedro Negron	Sand Springs	Sand Springs, OK
Tim Olmstead	Bishop McNamara	Kankakee, IL
Ryan O'Neal	Jesuit	New Orleans, LA
Pat O'Neill	Walsh Jesuit	Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Raheem Orr	Elizabeth	Elizabeth, NJ
Fred Pagac	Coffman	Dublin, OH
Marcus Reese	Oak Grove	San Jose, CA
Roderick Royal	Glen Oaks	Baton Rouge, LA
Ely Salamo	Reading	Reading, PA
J.D. Schmidt	Gonzaga	Washington, DC
Joe Siofle	St. Louis	Honolulu, HI
Clifton Smith	Freeport	Freeport, NY
J.D. Stanley	Berwick	Berwick, PA
Matt Wilhelm	Catholic	Elyria, OH
Carlos Williams	John Tyler	Tyler, TX

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Marcel Almond	St. Paul	Whittier, CA
Leman Anderson	Tioga	Tioga, LA
Jeremy Armstead	Central	Tulsa, OK
Terrance Bates	Amphitheater	Tucson, AZ
Germaine Bennett	Suitland	Suitland, MD
Anquan Bolden	Pahokee	Pahokee, FL
Ricky Bryant	Harrison	Farmington Hills, MI
Joel Buelow	Pulaski	Pulaski, WI
Kevin Cassese	Comsewogue	Comsewogue, NY
Monte Collier	Carter	Dallas, TX
Stephen Copeland	McNary	Keizer, OR
Curtis Crosby	Eastmoor	Columbus, OH
Sammy Davis	Humble, TX	Humble, TX
Mike Doss	McKinley	Canton, OH
Robert Evans	Vestavia Hills	Vestavia Hills, AL
William Ferguson	Woodland Hills	Pittsburgh, PA
David Fiefia	Hunter	Salt Lake City, UT
Demetrius Hookfin	Kentwood	Kentwood, LA
Eddie Jackson	Richardson	Richardson, TX
Jim Johnson	Abington	Abington, PA
Sterling Kazee	McArthur	Irving, TX
Brandon LeDonne	Aliquippa	Aliquippa, PA
Brian Mance	Manning	Manning, SC
Ricky Manning	Edison	Fresno, CA

Bruce McClure	Rancocas Valley	Mt. Holly, NJ
Tony Milton	N. Fla. Christian	Tallahassee, FL
Mel Mitchell	Rockledge	Rockledge, FL
Bruce Perry	Washington	Philadelphia, PA
Luke Powell	Smyrna	Smyrna, TN
Lavance Ray	Clovis	Clovis, CA
Darrell Rideaux	Poly	Long Beach, CA
Bryan Scott	Central Bucks East	Buckingham, PA
John Shaw	St. Thomas Aquinas	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Reinaldo Soto	Eastern	Bristol, CT
Tavares Spillman	Hollywood Hills	Hollywood Hills, FL
Terrance Stonestreet	Chadsey	Detroit, MI
Tobin Swope	Highland Park	Dallas, TX
Unitas Todd	Middletown	Middletown, DE
Kendrick Turner	Kimball	Dallas, TX
Traymayne Walker	Spruce	Dallas, TX
Rashad Washington	Southeast	Wichita, KS
Marques Williams	Hamburg	Hamburg, AR
O.J. Wilson	Cape Henlopen	Cape Henlopen, DE
Dennis Wyrick	Bishop Amat	La Puente, CA

KICKERS

Greg Davis	Germantown Academy	Philadelphia, PA
Brock Dickinson	Texarkana	Texarkana, AR
Ken Dudnick	Mainland	Linwood, NJ
Timm Gergeni	A&M Consolidated	College Station, TX
Jeremy Hershey	Pacific	San Bernardino, CA
Shane Hudnall	Lee	Tyler, TX
Eddie Johnson	Newport Harbor	Newport Beach, CA
John Lafferty	East Burke	Icard, NC
Justin Martinez	Lamar	Arlington, TX
Dan O'Neill	Arapahoe	Littleton, CO
Brent Palcott	Lakeland	Lakeland, FL
Shawn Rowser	East Duplin	Beulaville, NC
Tomas Sanchez	Arlington Heights	Fort Worth, TX
Mike Shafer	Riverview	Sarasota, FL
Dustin Wynn	Middlesboro	Middlesboro, KY

50 JUNIORS TO WATCH

ALABAMA

Mac Tyler, DL, Birmingham Jess Lanier

ARIZONA

Jared Wolfgramm, DE, Tempe Union

ARKANSAS

Vernon Hicks, RB, Elaine
Jon Newcomb, OL, Benton

CALIFORNIA

Matt Grootegoed, DB/QB/K, Santa Ana Mater Dei
Travis Johnson, DL, Sherman Oaks Notre Dame
Zac Wasserman, QB, Westlake Village Westlake
Manuel White, RB, Valencia
D.J. Williams, RB/LB, Concord De La Salle

COLORADO

Ryan Palmer, LB, Arvada West

DELAWARE

Kwame Harris, OL, Newark

FLORIDA

Jason Bradley, LB, Sarasota Booker
Alex Godfrey, RB, Niceville
Willie Green, RB, Kissimmee Osceola
Gerard Jackson, RB, Melbourne Central Catholic
Willie Roberts, TE, Miami Southridge
Vincent Wilfork, DL, Lantana Santaluces

GEORGIA

Don Calloway, DL, Conquitt Miller County
LaRon Harrison, WR, Carrollton

ILLINOIS

Gary Young, OL, Chicago Mount Carmel

LOUISIANA

Brock Berlin, QB, Shreveport Evangel Christian

MARYLAND

Umar Ferguson, RB, Kensington Einstein

MICHIGAN

Eric Knott, DL, Detroit Ford
Charles Rogers, WR, Saginaw

MISSISSIPPI

Jason Clark, TE, Starkville

MISSOURI

Cody Buford, QB, Raytown South

NEW JERSEY

Troy Bennett, LB, Paulsboro

Corey Brown, RB, Trenton

NEW YORK

Chris Mitchell, OL, Sweet Home

NORTH CAROLINA

Terrance Copper, WR, Washington

Andre Williams, RB/DB, Northern Durham

OHIO

Antonio Hall, OL, Canton McKinley
Brandon Joe, RB, Westerville South
Mike Munoz, OL, Cincinnati Moeller
Marcus Sanders, RB, Ravenna
Walter Reyes, RB, Youngstown Struthers

PENNSYLVANIA

Mark Jones, WR, Strath Haven
Nick Marmo, OL, New Castle
Jeremy McCorkle, TE/DL, Freeport
Kyle Schmitt, OL, Derry
Jeff Smoker, QB, Manheim Central

SOUTH CAROLINA

Darius Durant, QB/RB, Florence Wilson

TENNESSEE

Demetrius Fields, RB, Cleveland

TEXAS

Arturo Beltran, RB, Abilene
Jonas Buckley, DB, Houston Yates
Sonny Davis, DL, Austin Lanier
Darren Stephens, DB, Lewisville
Hunter Wall, QB, Coppell

VIRGINIA

Anthony Martin, WR, Penn Laird Spotswood

WISCONSIN

Darius Jones, LB, Beloit

25 PREP TEAMS TO WATCH

BLOUNT, Prichard, AL (12-3)

New coach Warren Johnson has 17 starters back, including preseason All-America wide receiver DeAndre Green and all-state defensive lineman DeMarco McNail, as Blount seeks a third straight state Class 5A championship.

DESERT VISTA, Tempe, AZ (9-2)

The Thunder return every member of last season's first-ever varsity team which bowed to eventual state Class 5A champion Mesa Mountain View in the playoffs. Veteran coach Jim Rattay, a former Mesa High mentor, will build his offense around all-state running back Bobby Wade.

DE LA SALLE, Concord, CA (12-0)

With a U.S.-best 76-game winning streak in the books, the Spartans could field their best team ever and enter the season as the No. 1 team in the National Prep Poll. The Bay Area power, the national champ in 1994, ranked No. 3 last season and returns state sophomore of the year in running back/linebacker D.J. Johnson and all-state running back Atari Callen among 13 regulars. The Spartans have won 110 of their last 111 games.

POLY, Long Beach, CA (14-0)

The Jackrabbits will be defending their Southern California Division I title with some of the state's top skilled players in their third season. Quarterback Chris Lewis is a preseason All-America and state junior of the year selection after passing for over 5,400 yards and 64 TDs the last two seasons. Defensive back Darrell Rideaux, wide receiver Kareem Kelly, and running back Larry Croom boast all-star status.

MATER DEI, Santa Ana, CA (13-1)

The Monarchs bowed only to Poly last fall and return seven defensive starters, including all-star linebacker Kevin Mitchell, and a veteran offensive line anchored by top prospect Lenny Vandermade. Quarterback and tailback will be key spots to fill. Mater Dei plays Concord De La Salle in key regular season matchup.

SOUTHRIIDGE, Miami, FL (13-1)

Several key members return from the squad which bowed only to eventual state Class 6A champion Miami Carol City in the state semifinals. Among the returnees are all-state running back Jason Davis, brother of Iowa State's Darren and the New Orleans Saints' Troy, along with linebacker Reggie Everett and junior receiver Willie Roberts. Southridge ranked 17th in final National Prep Poll.

LAKELAND, FL (12-1)

Underclassmen led the team to the state Class 5A quarterfinals last season before bowing 25-22 to eventual state champion Fort Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas. Winning 27 of last 28 games, Lakeland appears ready for another run at the crown it captured in 1996.

PARKVIEW, Lilburn, GA (13-2)

The Panthers will seek to repeat as state Class 4A titlists with all key skilled-position players back, including preseason All-America defensive back Jeremy Muyres, who had 14 interceptions last fall and also played receiver and quarterback.

ST. LOUIS, Honolulu, HI (13-1)

The Crusaders will be seeking a 13th straight Prep Bowl title for coach Cal Lee, who has a 16-year record of 189-28-4, the best in state history. Returnees from the team ranked No. 19 by National Prep Poll include linebacker Joe Siofele and linemen Sean Souza and William Meu Mau.

MT. CARMEL, Chicago, IL (10-2)

Caravan returns 12 regulars from the playoff team that extended 10-win season streak to 12 years. Wide receiver Octavius Bond and running back Ted Bolden are the top seniors. A talented junior class includes touted offensive linemen Gary Young. Coach Frank Lenti has a 158-24 record, including 122 victories in the last 132 games.

PENN, Mishawaka, IN (14-1)

Kingsmen have won the last three state Class 5A titles with state-record 18 straight playoff victories. Coach Chris Geesman has compiled a 246-40 record over the past 25 seasons, including 12 league championships in a row and an 89-game regular-season win streak from 1985-96. Top returnees include offensive linemen Dustin Clayton, tight end Tim Sommer, and guard Phil Verespelt.

EVANGEL CHRISTIAN, Shreveport, LA (15-0)

The nation's most productive passing attack will bid for a third straight state Class 3A title and fifth in the last six seasons. Junior quarterback Brock Berlin set a U.S. record with 4,659 passing yards last fall while tossing 54 TDs, including 25 to returning all-state receiver Richard Smith. All-state defensive lineman Cole Pittman anchors the front line as Evangel seeks to increase its 30-game victory streak.

HARRISON, Farmington Hills, MI (13-0)

The Hawks have won four state titles in the

1990s and eight since 1981 and hope to score a fourth back-to-back Class A title this fall. The school's only head coach, John Herrington, is 248-54-1 since 1970. Key returnees include wide receiver/defensive backs Ricky Bryant and Andre Davis, plus two-way guard Brian McGhee.

BLUE SPRINGS, MO (11-1)

Sixteen starters return for this Kansas City metro team. State player of the year Jamar Mozee is back after rushing 324 times for 2,230 yards and 26 TDs as a junior. He's joined by quarterback Joe Kinder and two-way lineman John Garrison as all-star veterans.

RAMAPO, Franklin Lakes, NJ (11-0)

Preseason All-America quarterback Chris Simms and running back Greg Toal anchor a veteran team seeking its fifth division title in the last seven years. Simms passed for 1,855 yards and 22 TDs last season while Toal rushed for 2,042 yards and 30 TDs. Other vets include wide receiver Nick Gallo, two-way lineman Greg Goodman, two-way end Owen Corso, and linebackers Joe Scarpelli and Craig McBeth.

SOUTHEAST, Lincoln, NE (13-0)

The Knights lost only five seniors off the 1997 Class A title team, the school's third crown since 1991. Returning all-staters include defensive back Ty Gifford, offensive lineman Chris Loos, running back Lee Daniel Avila, and defensive lineman Sean Blue.

RICHMOND COUNTY, Rockingham, NC (15-0)

Last year's Class 4A state champions graduated 10 college recruits and were ranked No. 8 by the National Prep Poll. However, nine offensive regulars and four defensive starters return, including preseason All-America Michael Waddell, who returned nine kicks for TDs and intercepted seven passes, plus two-way back Marcus Ellerbe.

ST. IGNATIUS, Cleveland, OH (11-2)

The Wildcats will be seeking their eighth state Division I title in the last 11 years and have won 127 of their last 136 games. Coach Chuck Kyle feels his team is comparable to the 1993 and 1995 teams ranked No. 1 by the National Prep Poll. Quarterback Joe Gonzalez is one of six returning offensive starters and also is one of five defensive regulars back in the fold.

MOELLER, Cincinnati, OH (12-2)

The Crusaders return several experienced

players from last season's state Division I runner-up and will bid for their eighth state crown since 1975. Moeller, with an overall 333-65-2 record, will feature one of the nation's top juniors in all-state offensive lineman Mike Munoz (6-6, 300), son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz. The key defender is linebacker Josh Martin.

MCNARY, Keizer, OR (14-0)

A pair of second-team all-staters anchor last season's state championship Class 4A team. Quarterback Stephen Copeland and tackle Bryce Bohlander will attract college attention.

CENTRAL DAULPHIN, Harrisburg, PA (11-3)

Former college coach George Chaump has several skilled position players back from the

team that bowed to unbeaten state champ Central Bucks West, 27-24 in overtime of the state Class 4A semifinals. Three-sport performer Ryan Belicic returns at quarterback after earning all-star plaudits as a junior.

DANIEL, Central, SC (12-3)

The 1997 state Class 3A runner-up was loaded with underclassmen and will bid for all the marbles this season. Second team all-state offensive lineman Kevin Breedlove is a top college prospect on one of the state's top programs of the 1990s.

DUNCANVILLE, TX (12-2)

The Panthers could be the preseason No. 1 team in the Lone Star State after advancing to the state Class 5A semifinals before bowing to unbeaten Longview a year ago. Returnees

include defensive end Kevin Young, the Dallas area Sophomore of the Year.

ELLISON, Killeen, TX (12-1)

Nine defensive starters and six offensive regulars return from last season's state Class 5A quarterfinalist. Speedster Reggie Duncan is back after rushing for 2,400 yards as a junior. Linebacker Jeremy Alfred anchors the defense. Ellison and Duncanville will vie for regional honors this fall.

ARROWHEAD, Hartland, WI (9-2)

Preseason All-America offensive lineman Matt McIntosh is among the 14 returning regulars on the team which has won 61 of its last 65 games, including three state titles since 1993. Defensive back Rob Melberth and defensive lineman Adam Siefert also top college prospects.

TOP COLLEGE FRESHMEN

QUARTERBACKS

	<i>hometown</i>	<i>college</i>
Chip Ambres	Beaumont, TX	Texas A&M
Arnaz Battle	Shreveport, LA	Notre Dame
Ronald Curry	Hampton, VA	North Carolina
Steve Cutlip	Arvada, CO	Colorado State
Drew Henson	Brighton, MI	Michigan
Matt Holliday	Stillwater, OK	Oklahoma State
Luke Huard	Puyallup, WA	North Carolina
Jared Jones	Walla Walla, WA	Florida State
Keith Matkins	Charlotte, NC	South Carolina
Carson Palmer	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA	USC
Cory Paus	New Lenox, IL	UCLA
Brian St. Pierre	Danvers, MA	Boston College
Ryan Van Dyke	Marshall, MI	Michigan State
Tyler Watts	Pelham, AL	Alabama

KYRAN JONES

Cato June	Peoria, AZ	Arizona State
Eric Locke	Washington, DC	Michigan
Tom Lopinski	Murfreesboro, TN	Alabama
Siaka Massaquoi	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Notre Dame
Sultan McCullough	Evanston, IL	Iowa
	Pasadena, CA	USC
Mike McNair	Santa Ana, CA	Notre Dame
Leo Mills	Humble, TX	Arizona
LaTroy Oliver	Hartford, CT	Syracuse
Jonathan Wells	River Ridge, LA	Ohio State
Brandon Williams	New Kensington, PA	Pittsburgh
Roy Williams	Union City, CA	Oklahoma

MATT LEONARD

Robert Malone	Palmdale, CA	Stanford
Kindal Moorehead	Prichard, AL	Auburn
Brian Norwood	Memphis, TN	Alabama
Osa Nosa	Rockingham, NC	North Carolina
Mike Pearson	Homestead, FL	West Virginia
Julius Peppers	Seffner, FL	Florida
Kenny Peterson	Bailey, NC	North Carolina
Dave Petruziello	Canton, OH	Ohio State
Sean Phillips	Mentor, OH	Michigan
Ryan Pickett	Sugar Land, TX	UCLA
Mike Saffer	Zephyrhills, FL	Ohio State
Ryan Scarola	Tucson, AZ	UCLA
Jon Stinchcomb	Murrysville, PA	Notre Dame
Anthony Weaver	Lilburn, GA	Georgia
Brett Williams	Saratoga Springs, NY	Notre Dame
Blake Worley	Kissimmee, FL	Florida State
	Mission Viejo, CA	UCLA

RECEIVERS

Jon Bowling	Lincoln, NE	Nebraska
Sam Collins	Fayette, AL	Alabama
Montrell Flowers	Dallas, TX	Baylor
Talman Gardner	New Orleans, LA	Florida State
David Givens	Humble, TX	Notre Dame
Javin Hunter	Beverly Hills, MI	Notre Dame
R.J. Luke	Aurora, IL	Penn State
Fred Milons	Starkville, MS	Alabama
Greg Moore	Bartow, FL	Florida State
A.T. Simpson	Indianapolis, IN	Purdue
David Terrell	Richmond, VA	Michigan
Chris Thigpen	Winnsboro, SC	South Carolina
Marquise Walker	Syracuse, NY	Michigan

LINEBACKERS / DEFENSIVE ENDS

Rodney Bailey	Folkston, GA	Georgia
Rocky Calmus	Jenks, OK	Oklahoma
Mike Clay	Houston, TX	Missouri
Shamar Finney	Shelby, NC	Penn State
Victor Hobson	Philadelphia, PA	Michigan
Bernard Jackson	Louisville, KY	Tennessee
Aaron Kampman	Aplington, IA	Iowa
Adam McConathy	Monroe, LA	LSU
Marcus Mosley	Dallas, TX	SMU
Carlos Pierre-Antoine	Seattle, WA	Notre Dame
Eddie Strong	Batesville, MS	Mississippi
Robert Thomas	Imperial, CA	UCLA
Josh Thornhill	Lansing, MI	Michigan State
William Witherspoon	Panama City, FL	Georgia

INTERIOR LINEMEN

Kendrick Allen	Bogalusa, LA	LSU
Dave Armstrong	Doylestown, PA	Michigan
Jermaine Brooks	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Arkansas
Rian Cason	College Park, GA	Florida State
Gus Felder	Berwick, PA	Penn State
John Henderson	Nashville, TN	Tennessee
Ben Johnson	Brussels, WI	Wisconsin
Dennis Johnson	Harrodsburg, KY	Kentucky
Antwan Kirk-Hughes	Waxahachie, TX	Texas

KICKERS

Hayden Epstein	San Diego, CA	Michigan
Todd Sievers	Ankeny, IA	Miami

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Rankings
Key Stats
Schedules
Depth Charts
Player Profiles
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'98 Television Schedule

Sunday, August 30

 Pigskin Classic:
Purdue at USC

2:30 PM (ABC)

Monday, August 31

 Kickoff Classic:
Texas A&M vs. Florida State

8:00 PM (ABC)

Thursday, September 3

 Virginia at Auburn
Arizona at Hawaii

 8:00 PM (ESPN)
11:00 PM (ESPN2)

Saturday, September 5

 Tennessee at Syracuse
Wake Forest at Air Force
Michigan at Notre Dame
Michigan State at Oregon
Vanderbilt at Mississippi State
BYU at Alabama
Ohio State at West Virginia
Colorado at Colorado State

 12:00 PM (ESPN)
1:00 PM (ESPN2)
3:30 PM (NBC)
3:30 PM (ABC)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
7:00 PM (ESPN)
8:00 PM (CBS)
10:00 PM (ESPN)

Thursday, September 10

Navy at Wake Forest

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, September 12

 Iowa State at Iowa
Rice at Purdue
Penn State at Pittsburgh
-or-
UCLA at Houston
Texas at UCLA
Auburn at Ole Miss
-or-
Georgia at South Carolina
Florida at Tennessee
Notre Dame at Michigan State
Arizona State at BYU

 12:30 PM (ESPN2)
12:30 PM (ESPN)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (ABC)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
8:00 PM (CBS)
8:00 PM (ABC)
9:00 PM (ESPN2)

Thursday, September 17

Colorado State at Air Force

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, September 19

 Central Florida at Purdue
Louisville at Illinois
BYU at Washington
LSU at Auburn
Maryland at West Virginia
Virginia Tech at Miami

 12:30 PM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
3:30 PM (ABC)
5:00 PM (ESPN)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
8:00 PM (ESPN)

Thursday, September 24

Arizona at San Diego State

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, September 26

 Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech
UCLA at Miami
Washington State at California
Northwestern at Wisconsin
Purdue at Notre Dame
Kentucky at Florida
Alabama at Arkansas
-or-
Houston at Tennessee
-or-
Mississippi State at South Carolina
Georgia Tech at North Carolina

 12:00 PM (ESPN2)
12:00 PM (CBS)
12:00 PM (ABC)
12:30 PM (ESPN)
2:30 PM (NBC)
3:30 PM (CBS)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
7:30 PM (ESPN)

Thursday, October 1

Syracuse at North Carolina State

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, October 3

 Arizona State at USC
Big Ten Game
Stanford at Notre Dame
Florida at Alabama
Georgia at LSU
Tennessee at Auburn
Washington State at UCLA
SEC Game

 12:00 PM (ABC)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
2:30 PM (NBC)
3:30 PM (TBD)*
3:30 PM (TBD)*
3:30 PM (TBD)*
3:30 PM (ABC)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)

Thursday, October 8

Virginia Tech at Boston College

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, October 10

 Big Ten Game
Big Ten Game
Florida State at Miami
-or-
Tennessee at Georgia
Cincinnati at Syracuse
LSU at Florida
Purdue at Wisconsin

 12:30 PM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (CBS)
5:30 PM (ESPN2)
7:00 PM (ESPN)
8:30 PM (ESPN2)

Saturday, October 17

 Big Ten Game
Big Ten Game
Auburn at Florida
-or-
Syracuse at Boston College
Clemson at Florida State
-or-
Virginia at Georgia Tech
Michigan at Northwestern
Kentucky at LSU

 12:30 PM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (CBS)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
9:00 PM (ESPN2)

Saturday, October 24

 Big Ten Game
Big Ten Game
Army at Notre Dame
Alabama at Tennessee
-or-
Miami at West Virginia
SEC
Florida State at Georgia Tech

 12:30 PM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
2:30 PM (NBC)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (CBS)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
7:00 PM (ESPN)

Thursday, October 29

San Diego State at BYU

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, October 31

 Big Ten Game
Big Ten Game
Baylor at Notre Dame
Georgia at Florida
Pittsburgh at Syracuse
West Virginia at Virginia Tech
North Carolina at Florida State
WAC Game

 12:30 PM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
2:30 PM (NBC)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (TBD)*
3:30 PM (TBD)*
7:30 PM (ESPN)
9:00 PM (ESPN2)

Thursday, November 5

 TBD

 Saturday, November 7
Notre Dame at Boston College
Maryland at North Carolina
-or-
Wake Forest at North Carolina State
Big Ten Game
Air Force at Army
-or-
Alabama at LSU
SEC Game
Syracuse at West Virginia

 8:00 PM (ESPN)

 12:00 PM (CBS)
12:00 PM (ESPN2)
12:00 PM (ESPN2)
12:30 PM (ESPN)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (CBS)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
7:30 PM (ESPN)

Thursday, November 12

Georgia Tech at Clemson

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, November 14

 Big Ten Game
Big Ten Game
-or-
Notre Dame at Navy
Arkansas at Tennessee
South Carolina at Florida
TBD
Georgia at Auburn
WAC Game

 12:30 PM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (ESPN2)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (TBD)*
3:30 PM (TBD)*
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
7:30 PM (ESPN)
9:00 PM (ESPN2)

Thursday, November 19

Mississippi State at Mississippi

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, November 21

 Boston College at West Virginia
Michigan at Ohio State
BYU at Utah
LSU at Notre Dame
South Carolina at Clemson
Auburn at Alabama
Kentucky at Tennessee

 12:00 PM (ESPN)
12:00 PM (ABC)
1:30 PM (ESPN2)
1:30 PM (NBC)
6:00 PM (ESPN2)
7:30 PM (ESPN)
TBD (CBS)

Friday, November 27

 Texas A&M at Texas
Colorado at Nebraska
LSU at Arkansas
-or-
West Virginia at Pittsburgh

 11:00 AM (ABC)
2:30 AM (ABC)
2:30 PM (CBS)
2:30 PM (CBS)

Saturday, November 28

 Georgia Tech at Georgia
-or-
Tennessee at Vanderbilt
Bayou Classic:
Grambling vs. Southern
Miami at Syracuse
SEC Game
Notre Dame at USC
Michigan at Hawaii
Virginia at Virginia Tech

 12:00 PM (CBS)
12:00 PM (CBS)
2:00 PM (NBC)
3:30 PM (CBS)
3:30 PM (ESPN2)
8:00 PM (ABC)
TBD (ESPN2)
TBD (ESPN)

Saturday, December 5

 Army vs. Navy
WAC Championship
Big 12 Championship
SEC Championship

 12:00 PM (CBS)
1:00 PM (ABC)
4:30 PM (ABC)
8:00 PM (ABC)

Saturday, December 19

Las Vegas Bowl

6:00 PM (ESPN2)

Wednesday, December 23

Motor City Bowl

8:30 PM (ESPN2)

Friday, December 25

 Blue-Gray All-Star Classic
Aloha Bowl
Hawaii Christmas Classic

 12:00 PM (ABC)
3:30 PM (ABC)
9:30 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, December 26

Insight.com Bowl

8:00 PM (ESPN)

Sunday, December 27

Heritage Bowl

2:00 PM (ESPN)

Tuesday, December 29

 Music City Bowl
Carquest Bowl

 5:30 PM (ESPN)
7:30 PM (TBS)

Wednesday, December 30

 Humanitarian Bowl
Holiday Bowl

 3:30 PM (ESPN2)
8:30 PM (ESPN)

Thursday, December 31

 Liberty Bowl
Peach Bowl
Independence Bowl

 12:00 PM (ESPN)
4:00 PM (ESPN)
8:00 PM (ESPN)

Friday, January 1

 Outback Bowl
Gator Bowl
Citrus Bowl
Rose Bowl
Sugar Bowl

 11:00 AM (ESPN)
12:30 PM (NBC)
1:00 PM (ABC)
4:30 PM (ABC)
8:30 PM (ABC)

Monday, January 4

Fiesta Bowl

4:00 PM (ABC)

Saturday, January 16

East West Shrine Classic

4:00 PM (ESPN)

Saturday, January 23

Senior Bowl

2:30 PM (TBS)

Sunday, January 24

Hula Bowl

7:30 PM (ESPN)

'98 NCAA Division I schedules

Air Force Air Force Academy, CO		
S. 5	Wake Forest	W W
S. 12	@UNLV	25-24
S. 17	Colorado State	W L
S. 26	@TEXAS CHRISTIAN	14-0
O. 3	New Mexico	W
O. 10	Navy	W
O. 24	@TULSA	18-7
O. 31	Southern Methodist	W
N. 7	@ARMY	W W
N. 14	@WYOMING	24-0
N. 21	Rice	W

Coach: Fisher DeBerry Colors: Silver & Blue
Nickname: Falcons '97 Record: 10-2

(12-10)

Akron Akron, OH

S. 5	Marshall	L
S. 12	@TEMPLE	W L
S. 26	Ball State	W
O. 3	@PITTSBURGH	4-10
O. 10	@KENT	W
O. 17	@OHIO	45-35
O. 24	Toledo	17-21
O. 31	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	10-42
N. 7	BOWLING GREEN	53-14
N. 14	Eastern Michigan	28-31
N. 21	Miami (OH)	0-45

Coach: Lee Owens Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Zips '97 Record: 2-9

Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL

S. 5	Brigham Young	W
S. 12	Vanderbilt	W L
S. 26	@ARKANSAS	20-0
O. 3	Florida	L
O. 10	Mississippi	W
O. 17	East Carolina	14-0
O. 24	@TENNESSEE	21-38
O. 31	Southern Mississippi	W
N. 7	@LOUISIANA STATE	27-13
N. 14	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	0-27
N. 21	Auburn	20-32

Coach: Mike Dubose Colors: Crimson & White
Nickname: Crimson Tide '97 Record: 4-1

(14-0)

Alabama St. Montgomery, AL

S. 5	@TROY STATE*	13-20
S. 12	Texas Southern*	6-31
S. 19	@ALCORN STATE	6-20
S. 26	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY*	16-27
O. 3	Arkansas-Pine Bluff*	10-18
O. 10	@JACKSON STATE*	11-38
O. 17	@PRAIRIE VIEW	56-7
O. 31	@ALABAMA A&M	20-13
N. 7	@GRAMBLING	20-13
N. 14	Mississippi Valley	10-34
N. 26	Tuskegee	16-21

Coach: Rod Dickerson Colors: Black & Old Gold
Nickname: Hornets '97 Record: 3-8

(21-0)

Ala-Birmingham Birmingham, AL

S. 5	@NEBRASKA	L
S. 19	Tennessee Tech*	W
S. 26	Kansas*	W
O. 3	Southwestern Louisiana	W
O. 10	@EAST CAROLINA	42-7
O. 17	@LOUISIANA TECH*	L
O. 24	Virginia Tech	29-32
O. 31	@NORTHEAST LOUISIANA	3-37
N. 7	@TENNESSEE	L
N. 14	Middle Tennessee State	W
N. 21	Tennessee-Martin	W

Coach: Watson Brown Colors: Green, Gold & White
Nickname: Blazers '97 Record: 5-6

(5-6)

Arizona St. Tempe, AZ

S. 5	Washington	L
S. 12	@BRIGHAM YOUNG*	10-13
S. 19	North Texas*	W
S. 26	Oregon State	L
O. 3	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	35-7
O. 10	Notre Dame	L
O. 17	Stanford	31-14
O. 31	@WASHINGTON STATE	44-31
N. 7	California	W
N. 14	@OREGON	L
N. 21	@ARIZONA	52-31

Coach: Bruce Snyder Colors: Maroon & Gold
Nickname: Sun Devils '97 Record: 8-3

(3-8)

Army West Point, NY

S. 12	Miami (OH)	L
S. 19	Cincinnati	W
S. 26	@RUTGERS*	37-35
O. 3	@EAST CAROLINA	L
O. 10	@HOUSTON*	W
O. 17	Southern Mississippi	3-8D
O. 24	@NOTRE DAME	0-24
N. 7	Air Force	L
N. 14	Tulane	0-41
N. 21	@LOUISVILLE	L
D. 5	@NAVY	W

Coach: Bob Sutton Colors: Black, Gold & Gray
Nickname: Cadets '97 Record: 4-7

Auburn Auburn, AL

S. 3	Virginia	L
S. 12	@MISSISSIPPI	W
S. 19	Louisiana State	L
O. 3	Tennessee	L
O. 10	@MISSISSIPPI STATE*	0-20
O. 17	@FLORIDA	10-24
O. 24	Louisiana Tech	49-13
O. 31	Arkansas	26-21
N. 7	Central Florida	W
N. 14	Georgia	3-8D
N. 21	@ALABAMA	18-17

Coach: Terry Bowden Colors: Burnt Orange & Navy Blue
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 9-3

Austin Peay Clarksville, TN

A. 29	Campbellsville*	*
S. 3	Morehead State*	43-55
S. 12	@SAMFORD*	13-21
S. 19	Dayton*	7-53
S. 26	@WESTERN KENTUCKY*	1
O. 3	@JACKSONVILLE	
O. 17	Charleston Southern	
O. 31	@CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY	
N. 7	Tusculum	
N. 14	@GEORGETOWN	
N. 21	@VALPARAISO	

Coach: Bill Schmitz Colors: Red & White
Nickname: Governors '97 Record: 0-10

Ball St. Muncie, IN

S. 5	@SOUTH CAROLINA*	L
S. 12	Eastern Michigan	L
S. 19	@IOWA STATE	L
S. 26	@AKRON	32-38
O. 3	Northern Illinois	W
O. 10	@TOLEDO	21-14
O. 17	Miami (OH)	35-3
O. 24	@MARSHALL*	10-27
N. 7	Western Michigan	L
N. 14	@CENTRAL FLORIDA	13-21
N. 21	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	37-34 (OT)

Coach: Bill Lynch Colors: Cardinal & White
Nickname: Cardinals '97 Record: 5-6

Baylor Waco, TX

S. 12	@OREGON STATE	L
S. 19	North Carolina State	W
S. 26	@COLORADO	2-9D
O. 3	@TEXAS TECH	14-35
O. 10	Kansas*	10-38
O. 17	Texas A&M*	23-21
O. 24	@TEXAS	10-27
O. 31	@NOTRE DAME	26-25
N. 7	Kansas State	L
N. 14	Oklahoma	23-24
N. 21	@OKLAHOMA STATE	14-24

Coach: Dave Roberts Colors: Green & Gold
Nickname: Bears '97 Record: 2-9

S. 5	@SAVANNAH STATE*	*
S. 12	@MORGAN STATE	15-18
S. 19	Texas Southern	#
O. 3	@HOWARD#	7-14
O. 10	Delaware State	14-35
O. 17	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	10-17
O. 31	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	26-25
N. 7	@HAMPTON	0-27
N. 14	Norfolk State	7-21
N. 21	Florida A&M*	35-52
* At Jacksonville, FL # At Indianapolis, IN		
\$ At Orlando, FL		

Coach: Alvin Wyatt Colors: Maroon & Gold
Nickname: Wildcats '97 Record: 4-7

Boise St. Boise, ID

S. 5	Cal State Northridge*	W
S. 12	Washington State*	L
S. 19	Portland State*	W
S. 26	@UTAH	W
O. 3	@LOUISIANA TECH	L
O. 10	North Texas*	L
O. 17	Weber State*	W
O. 24	Utah State	W
O. 31	@NEVADA	L
N. 7	@NEW MEXICO STATE	W
N. 21	Idaho	L
		30-23 (OT)

Coach: Dirk Koetter Colors: Blue & Orange

Nickname: Broncos '97 Record: 4-7

Boston College Chestnut Hill, MA

S. 5	@GEORGIA TECH	WTW
S. 12	Rutgers	W
S. 19	Temple	W
S. 26	@LOUISVILLE	L
O. 8	Virginia Tech	L
O. 17	Syracuse	L
O. 24	Navy	L
O. 31	@MIAMI (FL)	L
N. 7	Notre Dame	L
N. 14	@PITTSBURGH	W
N. 21	@WEST VIRGINIA	L
		31-24

Coach: Tom O'Brien Colors: Maroon & Gold

Nickname: Eagles '97 Record: 4-7

Bowling Green Bowling Green, OH

S. 5	@MISSOURI	L
S. 12	@PENN STATE	L
S. 26	Central Florida	L
O. 3	Ohio	W
O. 10	@MIAMI (OH)	L
O. 17	@TOLEDO	W
O. 24	Kent	W
O. 31	Marshall	W
N. 7	Akron	W
N. 14	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	L
N. 21	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	W
		35-10

Coach: Gary Blackney Colors: Brown & Orange

Nickname: Falcons '97 Record: 3-8

Brigham Young Provo, UT

S. 5	@ALABAMA	L
S. 12	Arizona State	W
S. 19	@WASHINGTON	L
S. 26	Murray State	W
O. 3	@PRESNO STATE	L
O. 10	@HAWAII	W
O. 17	San Jose State	W
O. 24	California-Davis	W
O. 31	@NORTHERN IOWA	W
N. 7	San Diego State	W
N. 14	New Mexico	W
N. 21	@UTEP	W
		3-14

Coach: LaVell Edwards Colors: Blue & White

Nickname: Cougars '97 Record: 6-5

Brown Providence, RI

S. 19	Yale	*
S. 26	@LAFAYETTE	W
O. 3	@RHODE ISLAND	W
O. 10	@PRINCETON	W
O. 17	Fordham	W
O. 24	Pennsylvania	W
O. 31	@CORNELL	W
N. 7	@HARVARD	W
N. 14	Dartmouth	W
N. 21	@COLUMBIA	W
		52-14

Coach: Phil Estes Colors: Brown, Red & White

Nickname: Bears '97 Record: 6-4

Bucknell Lewisburg, PA

S. 5	@DUQUESNE	W
S. 12	St. Mary's (CA)	W
S. 19	Fordham	W
S. 26	Columbia	W
O. 3	@PENNSYLVANIA	W
O. 17	@CORNELL	W
O. 24	Lafayette	W
O. 31	Colgate	W
N. 7	@HOLY CROSS	W
N. 14	@LEHIGH	W
N. 21	Towson State	W
		23-16

Coach: Tom Gadd Colors: Blue & Orange

Nickname: Bison '97 Record: 10-1

Buffalo Buffalo, NY

S. 3	@MAINE*	W
S. 12	Lock Haven*	W
S. 19	@LAFAYETTE	W
S. 26	@MASSACHUSETTS	W
O. 3	@CORNELL	W
O. 10	Morgan State	W
O. 17	Canisius*	W
O. 24	@LIBERTY	W
O. 31	Western Illinois	W
N. 14	@VILLANOVA	W
N. 21	@HOFSTRA	W
		13-52

Coach: Craig Cirbus Colors: Royal Blue & White

Nickname: Bulls '97 Record: 2-9

Central Conn. St. New Britain, CT

S. 5	Albany (NY)*	W
S. 12	St. John's (NY)	W
S. 19	@ROBERT MORRIS	W
S. 26	@MASSACHUSETTS	W
O. 3	St. Francis (PA)	W
O. 10	Wagner	W
O. 17	@SACRED HEART	W
N. 7	@SOUTHERN CONN. STATE	W
N. 14	@MONMOUTH (NJ)	W
N. 21	Fairfield	W
		21-44

Coach: Sal Cintorio Colors: Blue & White

Nickname: Blue Devils '97 Record: 5-5

Citadel Charleston, SC

S. 5	@FLORIDA	L
S. 12	@WAKE FOREST	W
S. 19	Western Carolina*	W
S. 26	@APPALACHIAN STATE	W
O. 3	@SOUTH FLORIDA	W
O. 10	East Tennessee State	W
O. 17	@FURMAN	W
O. 24	Georgia Southern	W
O. 31	Hofstra	W
N. 7	Chattanooga	W
N. 14	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	W
		7-3

Coach: Don Powers Colors: Blue & White

Nickname: Bulldogs '97 Record: 6-5

Central Florida Orlando, FL

S. 5	@LOUISIANA TECH	W
S. 12	Eastern Illinois	W
S. 19	@PURDUE	L
S. 26	@BOWLING GREEN	W
O. 3	@TOLEDO	W
O. 10	San Diego	W
O. 17	@VALPARAISO	W
O. 31	@DRAKE	W
N. 7	@QUINCY	W
N. 14	Lindenwood College	W
N. 21		34-17

Coach: Ken LaRose Colors: Blue & White

Nickname: Bulldogs '97 Record: 6-4

California Berkeley, CA

S. 5	Houston	L
S. 12	Nebraska	L
S. 19	@OKLAHOMA	W
S. 26	Washington State	W
O. 3	Dayton	W
O. 10	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	W
O. 17	@WASHINGTON	W
O. 24	UCLA	W
O. 31	@OREGON STATE	W
N. 7	@ARIZONA STATE	W
N. 14	Arizona	W
N. 21	Stanford	W
		35-3

Coach: Tom Holmoe Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Golden Bears '97 Record: 3-8

Cal Poly SLO San Luis Obispo, CA

S. 5	Northern Arizona*	W
S. 12	@SACRAMENTO STATE*	W
S. 19	@MONTANA	W
S. 26	SL Mary's (CA)*	W
O. 3	California-Davis	W
O. 10	@NORTHERN IOWA	W
O. 17	Western New Mexico	W
O. 24	@PORTLAND STATE	W
O. 31	Southern Utah	W
N. 7	@SOUTHERN UTAH	W
N. 14	@NEVADA	W
N. 21	Liberty	W
		32-49

Coach: Andre Patterson Colors: Green & Gold

Nickname: Mustangs '97 Record: 10-1

S. 5	@BOISE STATE*	W
S. 12	@NORTHERN ARIZONA*	W
S. 19	Eastern Washington*	W
S. 26	Southern Utah	W
O. 3	Montana	W
O. 10	@SACRAMENTO STATE*	W
O. 17	Montana State	W
O. 24	@WEBER STATE	W
O. 31	Portland State	W
N. 7	@DARTMOUTH	W
N. 14	@SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE	W
N. 21	@IDAHO STATE	W
		31-23

Coach: Ron Ponciano Colors: Red, White & Black

Nickname: Matadors '97 Record: 6-6

S. 12	@GANNON	W
S. 19	St. Peter's	W
S. 26	Sierra	W
O. 3	@IONA	W
O. 10	@GEORGETOWN	W
O. 17	@BUFFALO*	W
O. 24	@FAIRFIELD	W
O. 31	St. John's (NY)	W
N. 7	@MARIST	W
N. 14	Duquesne	W
N. 21		9-27

Coach: Chuck Williams Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Golden Griffins '97 Record: 3-7

Central Conn. St. New Britain, CT

S. 5	Albany (NY)*	W
S. 12	St. John's (NY)	W
S. 19	@ARMY	W
S. 26	Indiana	W
O. 3	@LOUISVILLE	W
O. 10	@SYRACUSE	W
O. 17	@MEMPHIS	W
O. 24	Miami (OH)	W
O. 31	Houston	W
N. 7	@ARKANSAS STATE	W
N. 14		28-9

Coach: Rick Minter Colors: Red & Black

Nickname: Mocs '97 Record: 7-4

Charleston Southern Charleston, SC

S. 5	@EAST TENNESSEE STATE*	W
S. 12	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	W
S. 19	South Carolina State	W
S. 26	@PRESBYTERIAN	W
O. 3	@WOFFORD*	W
O. 10	Newberry	W
O. 17	@LIBERTY*	W
O. 24	@AUSTIN PEAY	W
O. 31	South Florida	W
N. 7	Morehead State	W
N. 14	Bethel (TN)	W
N. 21		12-13

Coach: David Dowd Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Buccaneers '97 Record: 1-9

Chattanooga Chattanooga, TN

S. 3	Samford	W
S. 12	@EAST CAROLINA	W
S. 19	Troy State	W
S. 26	Georgia Southern	W
O. 3	@WOFFORD	W
O. 10	Montana	W
O. 17	@WESTERN CAROLINA	W
O. 24	Appalachian State	W
O. 31	@DARTMOUTH	W
N. 7	East Tennessee State	W
N. 14	Hofstra	W
N. 21		10-37

Coach: Buddy Green Colors: Navy Blue & Gold

Nickname: Mocs '97 Record: 7-4

S. 3	Tulane	W

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'98 NCAA schedules

Connecticut Storrs, CT

S. 5	@COLGATE	
S. 19	Maine	47-49 (OT)
S. 26	@YALE	28-0
O. 3	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	18-21
O. 10	Hofstra	35-31
O. 17	Massachusetts	49-16
O. 24	Rhode Island	37-21
O. 31	@NORTHEASTERN	38-26
N. 7	Delaware	29-37
N. 14	@WILLIAM & MARY	17-38
N. 21	@MASSACHUSETTS	49-16

Coach: Skip Holtz **Colors:** National Flag Blue & White **Nickname:** Huskies '97 Record: 7-4

Cornell Ithaca, NY

S. 19	Princeton	14-10
S. 26	@HOLY CROSS	
O. 3	Buffalo	
O. 10	@HARVARD	9-34
O. 17	Bucknell	
O. 24	Dartmouth	20-24
O. 31	Brown	12-37
N. 7	@YALE	37-10
N. 14	@COLUMBIA	33-22
N. 21	Pennsylvania	20-33

Coach: Pete Mangurian **Colors:** Red & White **Nickname:** Big Red '97 Record: 5-5

Dartmouth Hanover, NH

S. 19	Pennsylvania	23-15
S. 26	@MAINE	
O. 3	Lafayette	
O. 10	@COLGATE	
O. 17	Yale	21-7
O. 24	@CORNELL	24-20
O. 31	Harvard	0-24
N. 7	Columbia	23-21
N. 14	@BROWN	13-7
N. 21	@PRINCETON	12-9 (OT)

Coach: John Lyons **Colors:** Dartmouth Green & White **Nickname:** Big Green '97 Record: 2-9

Davidson Davidson, NC

S. 12	@JACKSONVILLE	
S. 19	@UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH	42-14
S. 26	Emory & Henry	35-49
O. 3	Guilford	22-25
O. 10	Washington & Lee	22-32
O. 17	@METHODIST	16-19
O. 24	Randolph-Macon	15-22
O. 31	@HAMDEN-SYDNEY	43-0
N. 7	Centre	14-19
N. 14	@BRIDGEWATER (VA)	10-13 (OT)

Coach: Tim Landis **Colors:** Red & Black **Nickname:** Wildcats '97 Record: 3-8

Dayton Dayton, OH

S. 5	@MONMOUTH (NJ)	51-16
S. 12	Robert Morris	16-13
S. 19	@AUSTIN PEAY*	
S. 26	Morehead State	42-28
O. 3	@BUTLER	42-7
O. 10	Drake	14-13
O. 17	St. Joseph's (IN)*	
O. 24	@VALPARAISO	34-13
N. 7	Towson State	
N. 14	@SAN DIEGO*	49-25

Coach: Mike Kelly **Colors:** Red & Blue **Nickname:** Flyers '97 Record: 9-1

Delaware Newark, DE

S. 5	Massachusetts	40-9
S. 12	@VILLANOVA	25-35
S. 19	West Chester	28-7
S. 26	New Hampshire	27-10
O. 3	Northeastern	38-14
O. 10	@WILLIAM & MARY	14-0
O. 17	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
O. 31	Maine	
N. 7	@CONNECTICUT	37-29
N. 14	@RICHMOND	24-7
N. 21	James Madison	49-27

Coach: Harold Raymond **Colors:** Royal Blue & Gold **Nickname:** Fightin' Blue Hens '97 Record: 12-2

Delaware St. Dover, DE

S. 5	@HOFSTRA	
S. 12	@ELON*	
S. 19	@NORFOLK STATE*	24-21
O. 3	Florida A&M	0-49
O. 10	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	35-14
O. 17	Liberty	17-33
O. 24	@MORGAN STATE	7-14
O. 31	South Carolina State	17-37
N. 7	North Carolina A&T	14-22
N. 14	Hampton	20-24
N. 21	@HOWARD	21-40

Coach: John McKenzie **Colors:** Columbia Blue & Red **Nickname:** Hornets '97 Record: 3-8

Eastern Illinois Charleston, IL

S. 5	St. Joseph's (IN)	41-20
S. 12	@CENTRAL FLORIDA*	
S. 19	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS*	
S. 26	Tennessee Tech	10-7
O. 3	Southeast Missouri State	32-7
O. 17	Illinois State	25-14
O. 24	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE*	30-17
O. 31	Tennessee State	
N. 7	Murray State	17-24
N. 14	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	42-6
N. 21	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	7-49

Coach: Bob Spoer **Colors:** Blue & Gray **Nickname:** Panthers '97 Record: 8-3

Florida Gainesville, FL

S. 5	Citadel	W
S. 12	Northeast Louisiana	W L
S. 19	@TENNESSEE	33-20
S. 26	Kentucky	W
O. 3	@ALABAMA	W
O. 10	Louisiana State	W G 2-1
O. 17	Auburn	21-28
O. 31	@GEORGIA	W
N. 7	Vanderbilt	17-37
N. 14	South Carolina	20-7
N. 21	@FLORIDA STATE	48-21

Coach: Steve Spurrier **Colors:** Orange & Blue **Nickname:** Gators '97 Record: 9-2

Florida A&M Tallahassee, FL

S. 5	Hampton	15-18
S. 12	@NORFOLK STATE*	41-26
S. 19	@JACKSON STATE*	30-14
S. 26	@TENNESSEE STATE	43-28
O. 3	@DELAWARE STATE	49-0
O. 10	North Carolina A&T	37-40 (OT)
O. 17	@HOWARD	24-15
O. 31	Morgan State	42-13
N. 7	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY*	33-3
N. 14	South Carolina State	22-20
N. 21	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN*	52-35

At Orlando, FL

Coach: Billy Joe **Colors:** Orange & Green **Nickname:** Rattlers '97 Record: 9-3

Drake Des Moines, IA

S. 5	Morningside	7-0
S. 12	@ST. AMBROSE	
S. 19	Wisconsin-La Crosse	
S. 26	@QUINCY	
O. 3	Valparaiso	27-7
O. 10	@DAYTON	13-14
O. 24	San Diego	30-39
O. 31	Butler	13-14
N. 7	@ST. MARY'S (CA)	
N. 14	@TOWSON STATE	

Coach: Rob Ash **Colors:** Blue & White **Nickname:** Bulldogs '97 Record: 8-3

Duke Durham, NC

S. 5	Western Carolina*	W
S. 12	@NORTHWESTERN	W
S. 19	@FLORIDA STATE	L
S. 26	Virginia	10-13
O. 3	@GEORGIA TECH	L W
O. 10	@WAKE FOREST	38-41
O. 17	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	L
O. 24	Clemson	20-29 (OT)
O. 31	@VANDERBILT	L
N. 7	Maryland	10-16
N. 14	North Carolina	14-50

Coach: Fred Goldsmith **Colors:** Royal Blue & White **Nickname:** Blue Devils '97 Record: 2-9

Duquesne Pittsburgh, PA

S. 5	Bucknell*	16-23
S. 12	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	51-3
S. 19	@SIENA	38-14
S. 26	@ST. JOHNS (NY)	11-14
O. 3	Fairfield	28-23
O. 10	Marist	27-24
O. 17	Georgetown	0-24
O. 24	Iona	41-0
N. 7	@ST. PETER'S	40-0
N. 14	@CANISIUS	32-7
N. 21	Robert Morris	

Coach: Greg Gattuso **Colors:** Red & Blue **Nickname:** Dukes '97 Record: 7-3

East Carolina Greenville, NC

S. 5	@VIRGINIA TECH	L
S. 12	Chattanooga	W
S. 19	Ohio	W
O. 3	Army	W
O. 10	Alabama-Birmingham	W
O. 17	@ALABAMA	L
O. 24	@SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	L
N. 7	@CINCINNATI	W
N. 14	Louisville	L
N. 21	@MEMPHIS	W

Coach: Steve Logan **Colors:** Purple & Gold **Nickname:** Pirates '97 Record: 5-6

East Tenn. St. Johnson City, TN

A. 27	Charleston Southern*	30-7
S. 5	@MIAMI (FL)	
S. 12	Appalachian State*	51-28
S. 19	Virginia Military*	17-7
S. 26	@WESTERN CAROLINA*	28-18
O. 3	@CITADEL	20-23 (OT)
O. 10	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
O. 17	Furman	58-28
O. 24	Wofford*	30-38
O. 31	Georgia Southern	31-28
N. 7	Wofford*	31-28
N. 14	@CHATTANOOGA	13-17

Coach: Paul Hamilton **Colors:** Navy Blue & Old Gold **Nickname:** Buccaneers '97 Record: 7-4

Eastern Kentucky Richmond, KY

S. 5	Kentucky State	
S. 12	@KENTUCKY	
S. 19	@WESTERN KENTUCKY*	14-42
S. 26	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE*	35-20
O. 3	Tennessee State	49-7
O. 10	Murray State	29-8
O. 17	Dayton	26-7
O. 24	@TENNESSEE MARTIN	49-0
O. 31	Appalachian State	23-27
N. 7	Eastern Illinois	49-7

Coach: Roy Kidd **Colors:** Maroon & White **Nickname:** Colonels '97 Record: 8-4

Eastern Michigan Ypsilanti, MI

S. 3	Northern Iowa*	L
S. 12	@BALL STATE	38-32
S. 19	@MICHIGAN	L
S. 26	Marshall*	25-48
O. 3	@KENT	38-41
O. 10	Central Michigan*	31-24
O. 17	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	38-41
O. 24	Northern Illinois*	38-10
N. 7	@OHIO	7-47
N. 14	@AKRON	45-0
N. 21	Toledo	35-38

Coach: Rick Rasnick **Colors:** Dark Green & White **Nickname:** Eagles '97 Record: 4-7

Eastern Washington Cheney, WA

S. 5	@IDAHO	24-21

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Georgetown Washington, DC

S. 12	Marist	19-13
S. 19	Holy Cross	21-25
S. 26	@FAIRFIELD	34-9
O. 3	@SIENA	41-10
O. 10	Canisius	24-10
O. 17	@ST. JOHN'S (NY)	27-0
O. 24	@DUQUESNE	24-0
O. 31	St. Peter's	40-32
N. 7	Iona	33-2
N. 14	Austin Peay	24-10
N. 21	@FORDHAM	0-42

Coach: Bob Benson Colors: Blue & Gray
Nickname: Hoyas '97 Record: 8-3

Georgia Athens, GA

S. 5	Kent	W
S. 12	@SOUTH CAROLINA	W
S. 19	Wyoming	W
O. 3	@LOUISIANA STATE	W
O. 10	Tennessee	13-38
O. 17	Vanderbilt	24-18
O. 24	@KENTUCKY	23-13
O. 31	Florida	8-30
N. 14	@AUBURN	34-45
N. 21	Mississippi	21-14
N. 28	Georgia Tech	27-24

Coach: Jim Donnan Colors: Red & Black
Nickname: Bulldogs '97 Record: 9-2

Georgia Southern Statesboro, GA

S. 5	Elon*	
S. 12	Jacksonville State	
S. 19	Wofford	22-7
S. 26	@CHATTANOOGA*	37-10
O. 3	Virginia Military	49-0
O. 10	@WESTERN CAROLINA*	30-7
O. 17	Appalachian State	12-24
O. 24	@CITADEL	49-7
O. 31	East Tennessee State	38-30
N. 7	@FURMAN	30-13
N. 14	South Florida	24-23

Coach: Paul Johnson Colors: Blue & White
Nickname: Eagles '97 Record: 10-3

Georgia Tech Atlanta, GA

S. 5	Boston College	42-14
S. 12	New Mexico State	W
S. 26	@NORTH CAROLINA	13-16
O. 3	Duke	41-38
O. 10	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	27-17
O. 17	Virginia	31-35
O. 24	Florida State	W
O. 31	@MARYLAND	27-18
N. 12	@CLEMSON	28-20
N. 21	Wake Forest	28-26
N. 28	@GEORGIA	24-27

Coach: George O'Leary Colors: Old Gold & Blue
Nickname: Yellow Jackets '97 Record: 10-5

Grambling Grambling, LA

S. 5	Alcorn State	20-44
S. 12	@ALABAMA A&M	
S. 26	@HAMPTON*	7-42
O. 3	@PRAIRIE VIEW	33-6
O. 10	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	20-13
O. 17	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF*	16-22
O. 24	Jackson State	0-23
O. 31	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	16-21
N. 7	Alabama State	13-20
N. 14	@WINSTON-SALEM	
N. 28	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY#	7-30

* At East Rutherford, NY. # At New Orleans, LA

Coach: Doug Williams Colors: Black & Gold
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 3-8

Hampton Hampton, VA

S. 5	@FLORIDA A&M*	18-15
S. 12	@HOWARD*	49-21
S. 19	North Carolina A&T	7-2
S. 26	Grambling#	42-7
O. 10	Liberty	33-27 (OT)
O. 17	Norfolk State	9-2
O. 24	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	20-14 (OT)
O. 31	William & Mary	6-31
N. 7	Bethune-Cookman	27-0
N. 14	@DELAWARE STATE	24-20
N. 21	@MORGAN STATE	10-0

* At Washington, DC. # At East Rutherford, NY

Coach: Joe Taylor Colors: Royal Blue & White
Nickname: Pirates '97 Record: 10-2

Harvard Cambridge, MA

S. 19	@COLUMBIA	45-7
S. 26	@COLGATE	
O. 3	Lehigh	35-30
O. 10	Cornell	34-9
O. 17	Holy Cross	52-24
O. 24	@PRINCETON	14-12
O. 31	@DARTMOUTH	24-0
N. 7	Brown	27-10
N. 14	@PENNSYLVANIA	33-0
N. 21	Yale	17-7

Coach: Tim Murphy Colors: Crimson
Nickname: Crimson '97 Record: 9-1

Idaho Moscow, ID

S. 5	Eastern Washington	W
S. 12	@SAN JOSE STATE	W
S. 19	@WASHINGTON STATE	L
S. 26	@LOUISIANA STATE*	L
O. 3	Idaho State	W
O. 10	@ARKANSAS STATE	W
O. 17	@UTAH STATE	W
O. 24	Nevada	17-63
O. 31	@NORTH TEXAS	W
N. 7	New Mexico State	30-17
N. 14	@BOISE STATE	W

Coach: Chris Tormey Colors: Silver & Gold
Nickname: Vandals '97 Record: 5-6

Coach: Harold Crocker Colors: Maroon & Gold
Nickname: Gaels '97 Record: 0-10

Iona New Rochelle, NY

S. 12	@FAIRFIELD	
S. 19	La Salle	
S. 26	@SACRED HEART	
O. 3	Canisius	7-14
O. 10	Siena	7-50
O. 17	@MARIST	12-31
O. 24	St. Peter's	12-14
O. 31	@DUQUESNE	0-41
N. 7	@GEORGETOWN	2-33
N. 14	St. John's (NY)	7-37

Coach: Hayden Fry Colors: Gold & Black
Nickname: Hawkeyes '97 Record: 7-4

Iowa Iowa City, IA

S. 5	Central Michigan	W
S. 12	Iowa State	L
S. 19	@ARIZONA	L
S. 26	@ILLINOIS	W
O. 3	Michigan	24-28
O. 10	Northwestern	14-15
O. 17	@INDIANA	L
O. 24	Wisconsin	62-0
O. 31	@PURDUE	L
N. 14	Ohio State	7-23
N. 21	@MINNESOTA	31-0

Coach: Tom Walsh Colors: Black & Orange
Nickname: Bengals '97 Record: 3-8

Iowa St. Ames, IA

S. 5	Texas Christian	L
S. 12	@IOWA	W
S. 19	Ball State	W
S. 26	Texas Tech	L
O. 3	@TEXAS	L
O. 10	Missouri	L
O. 17	@KANSAS STATE	L
O. 24	@KANSAS STATE	L
O. 31	@OKLAHOMA	L
N. 7	Nebraska	14-77
N. 14	@COLORADO	38-43
N. 21	Kansas	24-34

Coach: Dan McCamey Colors: Cardinal & Gold
Nickname: Cyclones '97 Record: 1-10

Jackson St. Jackson, MS

S. 5	@HOWARD	
S. 12	Tennessee State	*
S. 19	Ball State	W
S. 26	Texas Tech	L
O. 3	@TEXAS	L
O. 10	Missouri	L
O. 17	@KANSAS STATE	L
O. 24	@KANSAS STATE	L
O. 31	@OKLAHOMA	L
N. 7	Nebraska	14-77
N. 14	@COLORADO	38-43
N. 21	Kansas	24-34

Coach: James Carson Colors: Blue & White
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 9-3

Jacksonville Jacksonville, FL

S. 12	Davidson	
S. 19	@CHOWAN	
S. 26	@MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE	
O. 3	Austin Peay	
O. 10	Methodist	
O. 17	@GREENSBORO COLLEGE	
O. 24	@CLINCH VALLEY	
N. 7	La Salle	
N. 14	Wagner*	

Coach: Steve Gilbert Colors: Green & White
Nickname: Dolphins

S. 5	@ALABAMA A&M*	
S. 12	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	
S. 19	Middle Tennessee State	16-27
S. 26	@NICHOLLS STATE	14-16
O. 3	Stephen F. Austin	15-41
O. 10	@MCNEESE STATE	6-27
O. 17	Samford	14-17
O. 24	Sam Houston State	28-21
N. 7	Northwestern State	21-42
N. 14	@SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE	27-35
N. 21	Troy State	0-49

Coach: Mike Williams Colors: Red & White
Nickname: Gamecocks '97 Record: 1-10

'98 NCAA schedules

James Madison Harrisonburg, VA

S. 5	@MARYLAND	
S. 12	Hofstra*	
S. 19	Villanova	17-49
S. 26	Eton*	
O. 3	@RICHMOND	21-26
O. 10	@MASSACHUSETTS	13-10
O. 17	William & Mary	25-38
O. 24	Maine	24-22
O. 31	@RHODE ISLAND	39-37 (OT)
N. 7	Northeastern	17-41
N. 21	@DELAWARE	27-49

Coach: Alex Wood Colors: Purple & Gold
Nickname: Dukes '97 Record: 5-6

Kansas Lawrence, KS

S. 12	@MISSOURI*	L
S. 19	Illinois State	W
S. 26	@ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM	W
O. 3	Texas A&M	L
O. 10	@BAYLOR	L
O. 17	@NEBRASKA	L
O. 24	Colorado	W
O. 31	Kansas State	L
N. 7	North Texas	W
N. 14	Oklahoma State	L
N. 21	@IOWA STATE	L

Coach: Terry Allen Colors: Crimson & Blue
Nickname: Jayhawks '97 Record: 5-6

Kansas St. Manhattan, KS

S. 5	Indiana State	W
S. 12	Northern Illinois	W
S. 19	Texas	W
S. 26	Northeast Louisiana	W
O. 3	@COLORADO	W
O. 10	@COKER	L
O. 17	Oklahoma State	W
O. 24	Iowa State	W
O. 31	@KANSAS	W
N. 7	@BAYLOR	W
N. 14	Nebraska	W
N. 21	@MISSOURI	W

Coach: Bill Snyder Colors: Purple & White
Nickname: Wildcats '97 Record: 10-1

Kent Kent, OH

S. 5	@GEORGIA	L
S. 12	Youngstown State	L
S. 19	@NAVY	W
S. 26	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	L
O. 3	Eastern Michigan	L
O. 10	Akron	W
O. 17	@MARSHALL	L
O. 24	@BOWLING GREEN	L
O. 31	Western Michigan	L
N. 7	@MIAMI (OH)	L
N. 14	Ohio	L
N. 21	Ohio	L

Coach: Dean Pees Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Golden Flashes '97 Record: 3-8

Kentucky Lexington, KY

S. 5	@LOUISVILLE	W
S. 12	Eastern Kentucky	W
S. 19	Indiana	W
S. 26	@FLORIDA	L
O. 3	@ARKANSAS*	L
O. 10	South Carolina	W
O. 17	@LOUISIANA STATE	W
O. 24	Georgia	W
N. 7	Mississippi State	W
N. 14	Vanderbilt	W
N. 21	@TENNESSEE	L

Coach: Hal Mumme Colors: Blue & White
Nickname: Wildcats '97 Record: 5-6

La Salle Philadelphia, PA

S. 12	St. Peter's	25-16
S. 19	@IONA	
S. 26	@DELaware VALLEY	0-43
O. 3	Monmouth (NJ)	20-42
O. 10	@CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY	21-61
O. 17	Bryant College	
O. 24	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	7-30
O. 31	Waynesburg	7-41
N. 7	@JACKSONVILLE	

Coach: Bill Mantovano Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Explorers '97 Record: 1-8

Lafayette Easton, PA

S. 12	@NORTHEASTERN	
S. 19	Buffalo	
S. 26	Brown	27-35
O. 3	@DARTMOUTH	
O. 10	@TOWSON STATE	38-0
O. 17	Princeton	
O. 24	@BUCKNELL	21-23
O. 31	Holy Cross	34-23
N. 7	@FORDHAM	0-23
N. 14	@COLGATE	6-44
N. 21	Lehigh	31-43

Coach: Bill Russo Colors: Maroon & White
Nickname: Leopards '97 Record: 3-8

Maine Orono, ME

S. 3	Buffalo*	52-13
S. 12	New Hampshire	7-24
S. 19	@CONNECTICUT	49-47 (OT)
S. 26	Dartmouth	
O. 3	Villanova	14-34
O. 10	Rhode Island	30-14
O. 17	Richmond	14-17
O. 24	@JAMES MADISON	22-24
O. 31	@DELAWARE	
N. 14	@MASSACHUSETTS	49-6
N. 21	Northeastern	17-23

Coach: Jack Cosgrove Colors: White & Blue
Nickname: Black Bears '97 Record: 5-6

Memphis Memphis, TN

S. 5	@MISSISSIPPI	L
S. 12	Mississippi State	L
S. 19	@MINNESOTA	L
O. 3	@HOUSTON	L
O. 10	Arkansas	L
O. 17	Cincinnati	L
O. 24	@LOUISVILLE	L
O. 31	Arkansas State	L
N. 7	Tulane	L
N. 14	@SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	L
N. 21	East Carolina	L

Coach: Rip Scherer Colors: Blue & Gray
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 4-7

Lehigh Bethlehem, PA

S. 12	Fordham	35-42 (OT)
S. 19	@ST. MARY'S (CA)	
S. 26	Princeton	
O. 3	@HARVARD	30-35
O. 10	@COLUMBIA	
O. 17	Towson State	16-14
O. 24	@HOLY CROSS	14-20
O. 31	Wofford	28-61
N. 7	Colgate	14-21
N. 14	Bucknell	43-31
N. 21	@LAFAETTE	

Coach: Kevin Higgins Colors: Brown & White
Nickname: Mountain Hawks '97 Record: 4-7

Marist Poughkeepsie, NY

S. 12	@GEORGETOWN	13-19
S. 19	Fairfield	14-34
S. 26	@ST. PETER'S	42-0
O. 3	St. John's (NY)	7-24
O. 10	@DUQUESNE	24-27
O. 17	Iona	31-12
O. 24	@WAGNER	21-0
O. 31	St. Francis (PA)	26-10
N. 7	Canisius	20-6
N. 14	@SIENA	34-9

Coach: Jim Parady Colors: Red & White

Nickname: Red Foxes '97 Record: 6-4

Liberty Lynchburg, VA

S. 5	@APPALACHIAN STATE*	25-19
S. 12	South Florida	
S. 19	Glenville State	56-7
S. 26	Charleston Southern	48-14
O. 3	@HAMPTON	27-33 (OT)
O. 10	@DELAWARE STATE	33-17
O. 17	Buffalo	
O. 24	@ELON	41-9
O. 31	Charleston Southern	28-21
N. 7	Norfolk State	17-6
N. 14	@HOFSTRA	27-40
N. 21	@CAL POLY SLO	49-32

Coach: Sam Rutigliano Colors: Red, White & Blue
Nickname: Flames '97 Record: 9-2

Marshall Huntington, WV

S. 5	@AKRON	W
S. 12	Troy State	W
S. 19	@SOUTH CAROLINA	W
S. 26	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	W
O. 3	Miami (OH)	21-15
O. 10	@OHIO	27-0
O. 17	Kent	42-17
O. 24	Ball State	42-16
O. 31	@BOWLING GREEN	28-0
N. 7	Central Michigan	45-17
N. 14	Wofford	W
N. 21	Wofford	W

Coach: Bob Pruitt Colors: Green & White
Nickname: Thundering Herd '97 Record: 10-2

Louisiana St. Baton Rouge, LA

S. 12	Auburn	W
S. 19	W	28-31
S. 26	Idaho	W
O. 3	Georgia	L
O. 10	@FLORIDA	28-21
O. 17	Kentucky	63-28
O. 24	Mississippi State	24-9
O. 31	@MISSISSIPPI	21-36
N. 7	Alabama	27-0
N. 14	@NOTRE DAME	6-24
N. 21	Arkansas	31-21

Coach: Gerry DiNardo Colors: Purple & Gold

Nickname: Bulldogs '97 Record: 9-2

Louisiana Tech Ruston, LA

S. 5	Kentucky	L
S. 12	@UTAH	21-27
S. 19	ILLINOIS	26-14
S. 26	Boston College	W
O. 3	Cincinnati	9-28
O. 10	@SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	24-42
O. 17	@TULANE	33-64
O. 24	Memphis	20-21
O. 31	Western Kentucky	W
N. 7	@EAST CAROLINA	W
N. 14	Army	31-48
N. 21	Army	W

Coach: John L. Smith Colors: Red, White & Black

Nickname: Cardinals '97 Record: 1-10

Maine Orono, ME

S. 5	Southeastern Oklahoma	31-0
S. 12	@NORTHERN IOWA	22-5
S. 19	@SOUTHERN UTAH	
S. 26	Arkansas-Monticello	
O. 3	Jacksonville	27-6
O. 10	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	50-7
O. 17	Stephen F. Austin	7-13
O. 24	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	38-21
O. 31	Southwest Texas State	31-21
N. 7	Southwest Texas State	10-7
N. 14	@TROY STATE	31-13
N. 21	Nicholls State	

Coach: Bobby Keasler Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Cowboys '97 Record: 13-2

Michigan Ann Arbor, MI

S. 5	@OREGON	L
S. 12	Notre Dame	W
S. 19	@MICHIGAN	W
S. 26	Central Michigan	W
O. 3	Indiana	W
O. 10	@MINNESOTA	W
O. 17	Northwestern	W
O. 24	@OHIO STATE	W
N. 7	Purdue	W
N. 14	Illinois	W
N. 21	@PENN STATE	W

Michigan St. East Lansing, MI

S. 5	Tennessee State*	.....
S. 12	@ILLINOIS*	.....
S. 19	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	.....
S. 26	Eastern Kentucky*	.....
O. 3	@TENNESSEE TECH*	.....
O. 10	Murray State*	

Minnesota Minneapolis, MN

S. 5	Arkansas State	W
S. 12	@HOUSTON	W
S. 19	Memphis	W
O. 3	@PURDUE	L
O. 10	Penn State	L
O. 17	@OHIO STATE	L
O. 24	Michigan State	W
O. 31	Michigan	L
N. 7	@WISCONSIN	L
N. 14	@INDIANA	L
N. 21	Iowa	W

Coach: Glen Mason Colors: Maroon & Gold
Nickname: Golden Gophers '97 Record: 3-9

Mississippi University, MS

S. 5	Memphis	W
S. 12	Auburn	L
S. 19	@VANDERBILT	W
S. 26	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	W
O. 3	South Carolina	W
O. 10	@ALABAMA	L
O. 24	Arkansas State	W
O. 31	Louisiana State	W
N. 7	@ARKANSAS	L
N. 14	@GEORGIA	L
N. 21	Mississippi State	L

Coach: Tommy Tuberville Colors: Cardinal Red & Navy Blue
Nickname: Rebels '97 Record: 7-4

Mississippi St. Mississippi State

S. 5	Vanderbilt	W
S. 12	@MEMPHIS	W
S. 19	@OKLAHOMA STATE	L
S. 26	@SOUTH CAROLINA	W
O. 10	Auburn	W
O. 17	East Tennessee State	W
O. 24	@LOUISIANA STATE	L
N. 7	@KENTUCKY	W
N. 14	Alabama	W
N. 21	Arkansas	W

Coach: Jackie Sherrill Colors: Maroon & White
Nickname: Bulldogs '97 Record: 7-4

Mississippi Valley Itta Bena, MS

S. 5	Arkansas-Pine Bluff*	7-15
S. 12	@NICHOLLS STATE*	7-15
S. 19	@ALABAMA A&M*	8-23
S. 26	@JACKSON STATE*	31-48
O. 3	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY*	30-51
O. 10	Grambling	13-20
O. 17	Albany State (GA)	13-20
O. 24	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	13-10
O. 31	Prairie View	27-0
N. 7	Alcorn State	18-23
N. 14	@ALABAMA STATE	34-10

Coach: Larry Dorsey Colors: Green & White
Nickname: Delta Devils '97 Record: 4-6

Missouri Columbia, MO

S. 5	Bowling Green	W
S. 12	Kansas	W
S. 19	@OHIO STATE	L
O. 3	Northwestern State	W
O. 10	@IOWA STATE	W
O. 17	Oklahoma	W
O. 24	@NEBRASKA	L
O. 31	@TEXAS TECH	W
N. 7	Colorado	W
N. 14	@TEXAS A&M	L
N. 21	Kansas State	L

Coach: Larry Smith Colors: Old Gold & Black
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 7-4

Monmouth (NJ) West Long Branch, NJ

S. 5	Dayton	16-51
S. 12	Towson State	21-22
S. 19	@ALBANY (NY)	
O. 3	@LA SALLE	42-20
O. 10	@LIU-C.W. POST	
O. 17	St. Francis (PA)	27-7
O. 24	@ROBERT MORRIS	20-41
O. 31	Sacred Heart	43-0
N. 7	@WAGNER	51-7
N. 14	Central Connecticut State	31-17

Coach: Kevin Callahan Colors: Royal Blue & White
Nickname: Hawks '97 Record: 5-4

Street & Smith's College Football**Montana** Missoula, MT

S. 5	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN*	24-10
S. 12	Southern Utah	
S. 19	Cal Poly SLO	
S. 26	@WEBER STATE*	38-13
O. 3	Portland State	37-7
O. 10	@CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE	21-13
O. 17	Northern Arizona	24-27
O. 24	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	35-40
O. 31	Idaho State	48-0
N. 7	@SACRAMENTO STATE	52-10
N. 14	Montana State	27-25

Coach: Mick Dennehy Colors: Copper, Silver & Gold
Nickname: Grizzlies '97 Record: 8-4

Montana St. Bozeman, MT

S. 5	Fort Lewis	W
S. 12	@WYOMING	
S. 19	Western Washington	
S. 26	Sacramento State	30-6
O. 10	@WEBER STATE*	28-14
O. 17	Portland State	0-44
O. 24	@CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE	31-20
O. 31	Northern Arizona	13-14
N. 7	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	17-7
N. 14	Idaho State	14-13
N. 21	@MONTANA	25-27

Coach: Cliff Hysell Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Bobcats '97 Record: 6-5

Morehead St. Morehead, KY

S. 3	@AUSTIN PEAY*	55-43
S. 12	Butler*	
S. 19	@VALPARAISO	56-24
S. 26	@DAYTON*	28-42
O. 3	Elon*	
O. 17	Thomas More	
O. 24	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	
O. 31	Bethel (TN)	
N. 7	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	55-27
N. 14	@SOUTH FLORIDA*	17-33

Coach: Matt Ballard Colors: Scarlet & White
Nickname: Eagles '97 Record: 7-3

Morgan St. Baltimore, MD

S. 5	@TOWSON STATE*	
S. 12	Bethune-Cookman	18-15
S. 19	Utah State	6-48
S. 26	@NORTH CAROLINA ST.*	27-34 (OT)
O. 10	@BUFFALO	
O. 17	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	6-7
O. 24	Delaware State	14-7
O. 31	@FLORIDA A&M	13-42
N. 7	@SAMFORD	27-30
N. 14	@HOWARD	10-10
N. 21	Hampton	

Coach: Stump Mitchell Colors: Orange & Blue
Nickname: Bears '97 Record: 3-7

Murray St. Murray, KY

S. 5	Southern Illinois	20-24
S. 12	Western Kentucky	50-52 (OT)
S. 19	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	17-3
S. 26	@BRIGHAM YOUNG*	
O. 3	Tennessee-Martin	45-7
O. 10	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE*	35-17
O. 17	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	8-29
O. 31	Tennessee Tech	13-16 (OT)
N. 7	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	24-17
N. 14	Tennessee State	13-7
N. 21	@INDIANA STATE	13-0

Coach: Denver Johnson Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Racers '97 Record: 7-4

Navy Annapolis, MD

S. 10	@WAKE FOREST*	L
S. 19	W	0-28
S. 26	@TULANE	L
O. 3	West Virginia	L
O. 10	@AIR FORCE	L
O. 17	Colgate	W
O. 24	@BOSTON COLLEGE	W
N. 7	Rutgers	36-7
N. 14	Notre Dame	17-21
N. 21	Southern Methodist	46-16
D. 5	Army	39-7

Coach: Charlie Weatherbie Colors: Navy Blue & Gold
Nickname: Midshipmen '97 Record: 7-4

Nebraska Lincoln, NE

S. 5	Alabama-Birmingham	W
S. 12	@CALIFORNIA	W
S. 19	Washington	27-14
S. 26	@OKLAHOMA STATE	W
O. 3	@TEXAS A&M	L
O. 10	Kansas	W
O. 17	Missouri	W
O. 24	Texas	W
N. 7	@IOWA STATE	77-14
N. 14	@KANSAS STATE	56-26
N. 21	Colorado	27-24

Coach: Frank Solich Colors: Scarlet & Gray
Nickname: Cornhuskers '97 Record: 12-0

S. 5	@OREGON STATE	L
S. 12	Colorado State	L
S. 19	@FRESNO STATE	L
S. 26	@UNLV	W
O. 3	@UNLV	31-14
O. 10	New Mexico State	45-24
O. 17	@NORTH TEXAS*	L
O. 24	@IDAHO	W
N. 7	@UTAH STATE	56-42
N. 14	Cal Poly SLO	W
N. 21	Southern Mississippi	L

Coach: Jeff Tisdel Colors: Royal Blue & Silver
Nickname: Wolf Pack '97 Record: 5-6

Nevada Reno, NV

S. 5	@NORTHEASTERN	
S. 12	@MAINE	24-7
S. 19	East Stroudsburg	
S. 26	@DELAWARE	10-27
O. 3	Connecticut	21-18
O. 10	Richmond	
O. 17	Northeastern	19-34
O. 24	@WILLIAM & MARY	24-22
O. 31	Massachusetts	28-10
N. 7	@HOFSTRA	14-33
N. 14	Rhode Island	21-35

Coach: Bill Bowes Colors: Blue & White
Nickname: Wildcats '97 Record: 5-6

New Hampshire Durham, NH

S. 5	Idaho State	W
S. 12	Utah State	W
S. 19	@NEW MEXICO STATE	L
S. 26	@SAN JOSE STATE	L
O. 3	@AIR FORCE	L
O. 10	UTEP	L
O. 17	San Diego State	36-21
O. 24	@HAWAII	L
O. 31	Fresno State	L
N. 7	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	38-28
N. 14	Utah	10-15
N. 21	@CENTRAL FLORIDA	L

Coach: Rocky Long Colors: Cherry & Silver
Nickname: Lobos '97 Record: 9-3

New Mexico Albuquerque, NM

S. 5	@TEXAS	L
S. 12	@GEORGIA TECH	L
S. 19	New Mexico*	24-61
S. 26	UTEP*	16-24
O. 3	@ARKANSAS STATE	L
O. 10	@NEVADA	34-20
O. 17	Colorado State	L
O. 24	Utah State	7-38
N. 7	Boise State	10-52
N. 14	@IDAHO	18-35
N. 21	@NORTH TEXAS	15-26

Coach: Tony Samuel Colors: Crimson & White
Nickname: Aggies '97 Record: 2-9

Nicholls St. Thibodaux, LA

S. 5	@NORTHEAST LOUISIANA*	0-28
S. 12	Mississippi Valley	
S. 19	Jacksonville State	16-14
S. 26	@KANSAS STATE	17-14
O. 3	@SAMFORD	17-24
O. 10	Sam Houston State	17-24
O. 17	@SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE	29-28
O. 24	Northwestern State	0-19
O. 31	@LOUISIANA TECH	22-20
N. 7	@TROY STATE	22-20
N. 14	Stephen F. Austin*	7-39</td

'98 NCAA schedules

Northeastern Boston, MA

S. 5	New Hampshire	34-19
S. 12	Lafayette	
S. 19	@WILLIAM & MARY	33-12
S. 26	Rhode Island	41-13
O. 3	@DELAWARE	14-38
O. 10	Villanova	35-49
O. 17	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	34-19
O. 24	Richmond	21-17
O. 31	Connecticut	26-38
N. 7	@JAMES MADISON	41-17
N. 21	@MAINE	23-17

Coach: Barry Gallup Colors: Red & Black

Nickname: Huskies '97 Record: 8-3

Northern Arizona Flagstaff, AZ

S. 5	@CAL POLY SLO*	
S. 12	Southwest Texas State*	
S. 19	Cal State Northridge*	13-21
S. 26	Western State	
O. 3	@EASTERN WASHINGTON*	14-31
O. 10	Idaho State	24-41
O. 17	@MONTANA	27-24
O. 24	Sacramento State	48-25
O. 31	@MONTANA STATE	14-13
N. 7	Weber State	23-36
N. 14	@PORTLAND STATE*	56-21

Coach: Jerome Souers Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Lumberjacks '97 Record: 6-5

Northern Illinois De Kalb, IL

S. 3	@WESTERN MICHIGAN*	13-21
S. 12	@KANSAS STATE	7-47
S. 19	Eastern Illinois*	L
O. 3	@BALL STATE	L
O. 10	@CENTRAL FLORIDA*	L
O. 17	Central Michigan	W
O. 24	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	W
O. 31	Toledo	L
N. 7	Miami (OH)	L
N. 14	@OHIO	30-35
N. 21	Bowling Green	L

Coach: Joe Novak Colors: Cardinal & Black

Nickname: Huskies '97 Record: 0-11

Northern Iowa Cedar Falls, IA

S. 3	@EASTERN MICHIGAN*	
S. 12	McNeese State	5-22
S. 19	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	28-27
S. 26	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN*	
O. 3	Southwest Missouri State	23-22
O. 10	Illinois State	50-34
O. 17	Cal Poly SLO	24-38
O. 31	@INDIANA STATE	29-21 (OT)
N. 7	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	35-32
N. 14	Western Illinois*	22-29 (OT)
N. 21	Winona State*	

Coach: Mike Dunbar Colors: Purple & Old Gold

Nickname: Panthers '97 Record: 7-4

Northwestern Evanston, IL

S. 5	UNLV	W
S. 12	Duke	L
S. 19	@RICE	W
S. 26	@WISCONSIN	39-0
O. 3	Illinois	L
O. 10	@IOWA	15-14
O. 17	Michigan*	L
O. 24	Ohio State	6-23
O. 31	@MICHIGAN STATE	19-17
N. 7	Purdue	9-21
N. 14	@PENN STATE	27-30
N. 21	@HAWAII	W

Coach: Gary Barnett Colors: Purple & White

Nickname: Wildcats '97 Record: 5-7

Northwestern St. Natchitoches, LA

S. 5	Southern University*	9-27
S. 12	@SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	
S. 19	Henderson State	42-7
S. 26	@SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE*	31-3
O. 3	@MISSOURI	
O. 10	McNeese State	7-50
O. 24	@NICHOLLS STATE*	19-0
O. 31	Troy State	14-13
N. 7	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	42-21
N. 14	Sam Houston State	35-19
N. 21	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	38-24

Coach: Sam Goodwin Colors: Purple & White

Nickname: Demons '97 Record: 8-4

Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN

S. 5	Michigan	W
S. 12	@MICHIGAN STATE*	L
S. 19	Purdue	W
S. 26	Stanford	W
O. 3	@ARIZONA STATE	9-20
O. 24	Army	W
O. 31	Baylor	W
N. 7	@BOSTON COLLEGE	52-20
N. 14	@NAVY	21-17
N. 21	Louisiana State	24-6
N. 28	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	17-20

Coach: Bob Davie Colors: Gold & Blue

Nickname: Fighting Irish '97 Record: 25-0

Ohio Athens, OH

S. 5	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	L
S. 12	@WISCONSIN	L
S. 19	@EAST CAROLINA	L
S. 26	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	W
O. 3	@BOWLING GREEN	L
O. 10	Marshall	W
O. 17	Akron	L
O. 24	WVU	21-17
O. 31	@MIAMI (OH)	21-45
N. 7	Eastern Michigan	47-7
N. 14	Northern Illinois	35-30
N. 21	@KENT	31-7

Coach: Jim Grobe Colors: Green & White

Nickname: Bobcats '97 Record: 8-3

Ohio St. Columbus, OH

S. 5	@WEST VIRGINIA	34-17 W
S. 12	Toledo	49-0 W
S. 19	Missouri	35-14 W
O. 3	Penn State	28-9 W
O. 10	@ILLINOIS	45-15 R
O. 17	Minnesota	31-3
O. 24	@NORTHEASTERN	36-10 W
O. 31	Indiana	38-7 W
N. 7	Michigan State	24-28
N. 14	@IOWA	45-14 W
N. 21	Michigan	31-16 W

Coach: John Cooper Colors: Scarlet & Gray

Nickname: Buckeyes '97 Record: 18-2

Oklahoma Norman, OK

S. 5	North Texas	W
S. 12	@TEXAS CHRISTIAN	W
S. 19	California	L
S. 26	Colorado	36-40
O. 3	@TEXAS	L
O. 10	@MISSOURI	24-27
O. 17	@OKLAHOMA STATE	L
O. 24	Iowa State	7-30
O. 31	Texas A&M	7-51
N. 7	@Baylor	24-23
N. 14	Texas Tech	32-21

Coach: John Blake Colors: Crimson & Cream

Nickname: Sooners '97 Record: 4-8

Oklahoma St. Stillwater, OK

S. 12	@TULSA	W
S. 19	Mississippi State*	W
S. 26	Southwestern Louisiana	W
O. 3	Nebraska	L
O. 10	@TEXAS TECH	L
O. 17	@KANSAS STATE	L
O. 24	Oklahoma	W
O. 31	Texas A&M	25-28 (OT)
N. 7	@TEXAS	42-16
N. 14	@KANSAS	W
N. 21	Baylor	24-14

Coach: Bob Simons Colors: Orange & Black

Nickname: Cowboys '97 Record: 8-3

Oregon Eugene, OR

S. 5	Michigan State	W
S. 12	@UTEP	W
S. 19	San Jose State	W
S. 26	Stanford	49-58
O. 10	@WASHINGTON STATE	13-24
O. 17	@UCLA	31-39
O. 24	Southern California	22-24
O. 31	@ARIZONA	16-9
N. 7	Washington	31-15
N. 14	Arizona State	15-52
N. 21	@OREGON STATE	48-30

Coach: Mike Bellotti Colors: Emerald Green & Lemon Yellow

Nickname: Ducks '97 Record: 6-5

Oregon St. Corvallis, OR

S. 5	Nevada	W
S. 12	Baylor	W
S. 19	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	L
S. 26	@ARIZONA STATE	L
O. 3	@UTAH STATE	W
O. 10	@STANFORD	W
O. 17	Arizona	7-27
O. 24	@WASHINGTON	L
O. 31	California	17-33
N. 7	UCLA	10-34
N. 21	Oregon	5-60

Coach: Mike Riley Colors: Orange & Black

Nickname: Beavers '97 Record: 3-8

Princeton Princeton, NJ

S. 19	@CORNELL	
S. 26	Lehigh	
O. 3	Fordham	
O. 10	Brown	
O. 17	@LAFAYETTE	
O. 24	Harvard	
O. 31	@COLUMBIA	
N. 7	Pennsylvania	
N. 14	@YALE	
N. 21	Dartmouth	

Coach: Steve Tosches Colors: Orange & Black

Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 5-5

Purdue West Lafayette, IN

A. 30	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	L
S. 12	Rice	W
S. 19	Central Florida	W
S. 26	@NOTRE DAME	L
O. 3	Minnesota	W
O. 10	@WISCONSIN	L
O. 17	@PENN STATE	L
O. 24	Illinois	48-3
O. 31	Iowa	W
N. 7	@NORTHWESTERN	W
N. 14	@MICHIGAN STATE	W
N. 21	Indiana	56-7

Coach: Joe Tiller Colors: Old Gold & Black

Nickname: Boilermakers '97 Record: 9-30

Rhode Island Kingston, RI

S. 5	William & Mary	
S. 19	Richmond	
S. 26	@NORTHEASTERN	
O. 3	Brown	
O. 10	@MAINE	
O. 17	@HOFSTRA	
O. 24	@CONNECTICUT	
O. 31	James Madison	
N. 7	Massachusetts	
N. 14	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
N. 21	@VILLANOVA	

Coach: Floyd Keith Colors: Columbia Blue & White

Nickname: Rams '97 Record: 2-9

Rice Houston, TX

S. 5	Southern Methodist	W
S. 12	@PURDUE	L
S. 19	Northwestern	L
S. 26	@TEXAS	L
O. 3	@SAN JOSE STATE	L
O. 10	Tulsa	42-24
O. 17	@WYOMING	
O. 24	Colorado State	
O. 31	@TEXAS CHRISTIAN	

Rutgers New Brunswick, NJ

S. 5	Richmond	W
S. 12	@BOSTON COLLEGE	L
S. 19	@SYRACUSE	L
S. 26	Army	35-37
O. 3	Miami (FL)	L
O. 17	@PITTSBURGH	W
O. 24	Tulane	18-55 (OT)
O. 31	Temple	W
N. 7	@NAVY	W
N. 14	West Virginia	L
N. 21	@VIRGINIA TECH	L
		19-59

Coach: Terry Shea Colors: Scarlet

Nickname: Scarlet Knights '97 Record: 0-11

Sacramento St. Sacramento, CA

S. 5	@ST. MARY'S (CA)	
S. 12	Cal Poly SLO*	0-45
S. 19	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS*	28-36 (OT)
S. 26	@MONTANA STATE	6-30
O. 3	Weber State	14-52
O. 10	@PORTLAND STATE	13-27
O. 17	Cal State Northridge*	38-45 (OT)
O. 24	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	25-48
O. 31	Eastern Washington	17-30
N. 7	@DAHO STATE*	23-19
N. 14	Montana	10-52

Coach: Mike Clemons Colors: Green & Gold

Nickname: Hornets '97 Record: 1-10

Sacred Heart Fairfield, CT

S. 5	St. John's	7-26
S. 12	@SIENA	
S. 19	Wagner	
S. 26	Iona	
O. 3	@ST. FRANCIS	
O. 17	@ROBERT MORRIS	
O. 24	Central Connecticut	
O. 31	@MONMOUTH	0-43
N. 7	@HARTWICK	
N. 14	Bryant	

Coach: Tom Radulski Colors: Scarlet & White

Nickname: Pioneers '97 Record: 1-9

St. Francis (PA) Loretto, PA

S. 12	Duquesne	3-51
S. 19	@BUTLER	12-38
S. 26	Wagner	6-42
O. 3	Sacred Heart	
O. 10	@CENTRAL CONN. ST.	18-25 (OT)
O. 17	@MONMOUTH(NJ)	7-27
O. 24	La Salle	30-7
O. 31	@MARIST	10-26
N. 7	Robert Morris	7-34
N. 14	GANNON	41-26

Coach: Frank Pergolizzi Colors: Red & White

Nickname: Red Flash '97 Record: 2-9

St. John's (NY) Jamaica, NY

S. 5	@SACRED HEART	26-7
S. 12	@CENTRAL CONN. ST.	13-7
S. 19	Stony Brook	23-19
S. 26	Duquesne	14-11
O. 3	@MARIST	24-7
O. 17	Georgetown	0-27
O. 24	Siena	7-12
O. 31	@CANISIUS	6-0
N. 6	Fairfield*	21-34
N. 14	@IONA	37-7
N. 21	@ST. PETER'S	35-14

Coach: Bob Ricca Colors: Red & White

Nickname: Red Storm '97 Record: 8-3

St. Mary's (CA) Moraga, CA

S. 5	Sacramento State	
S. 12	@BUCKNELL	38-45
S. 19	Lehigh	
S. 26	@CAL POLY SLO*	14-24
O. 3	Columbia	
O. 10	@SOUTHERN UTAH*	31-27
O. 24	@CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	9-19
O. 31	@TOWSON STATE	
N. 7	Drake	
N. 14	Chapman	36-20

Coach: Mike Rasmussen Colors: Red & Blue

Nickname: Gaels '97 Record: 4-6

St. Peter's Jersey City, NJ

S. 12	@LA SALLE	16-25
S. 19	@CANISIUS	7-10
S. 26	Marist*	0-42
O. 10	@WAGNER	14-42
O. 16	Siena	21-42
O. 24	@IONA	14-12
O. 31	@GEORGETOWN	32-40
N. 7	Duquesne	0-40
N. 14	@FAIRFIELD	34-38
N. 21	John's (NY)	14-35

Coach: Mark Collins Colors: Blue & White

Nickname: Peacocks '97 Record: 1-9

Sam Houston St. Huntsville, TX

S. 5	@ANGELO STATE*	17-24
S. 12	Chadron State	
S. 19	Texas A&M-Kingsville*	
S. 26	@UTAH STATE*	
O. 3	Troy State*	10-13 (OT)
O. 10	@NICHOLLS STATE	24-17
O. 24	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	21-28
O. 31	McNeese State	21-38
N. 7	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	33-28
N. 14	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	19-35
N. 21	Southwest Texas State	35-30

Coach: Ron Randleman Colors: Orange & White

Nickname: Bearkats '97 Record: 5-6

Samford Birmingham, AL

S. 3	@CHATTANOOGA*	
S. 12	Austin Peay	21-13
S. 19	@FURMAN	10-29
S. 26	@TROY STATE*	25-14
O. 3	Nicholls State	14-17
O. 10	Tennessee-Martin	14-7
O. 17	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	17-14
O. 31	Mars Hill	
N. 7	Morgan State	
N. 14	@ELON	46-32
N. 21	@TENNESSEE TECH	7-14

Coach: Pete Hurt Colors: Crimson & Blue

Nickname: Bulldogs '97 Record: 7-4

San Diego San Diego, CA

S. 5	Azusa Pacific*	25-15
S. 12	@WAGNER	52-29
S. 19	Redlands*	15-8
S. 26	@CAL LUTHERAN	32-39
O. 3	Central Connecticut State	
O. 10	@BUTLER	24-14
O. 17	Fairfield	
O. 24	@DRAKE	39-30
O. 31	Valparaiso	52-35
N. 14	Dayton*	25-49

Coach: Kevin McGarry Colors: Navy, Columbia

Blue & White Nickname: Toreros '97 Record: 8-3

San Diego St. San Diego, CA

S. 5	Wisconsin	L
S. 12	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	L
S. 19	Arizona	L
O. 3	@TULSA	W
O. 10	Hawaii	W
O. 17	@NEW MEXICO	W
O. 24	Utah	L
O. 29	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	L
N. 7	Fresno State	W
N. 14	@SAN JOSE STATE	W
N. 21	UTEP	W

Coach: Ted Tollner Colors: Scarlet & Black

Nickname: Aztecs '97 Record: 5-7

San Jose St. San Jose, CA

S. 5	@STANFORD	W
S. 12	Idaho	L
S. 19	@OREGON	L
S. 26	New Mexico	W
O. 3	@VIRGINIA	L
O. 10	Rice	W
O. 17	@UTEP	L
O. 24	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	L
O. 31	Utah	W
N. 7	@HAWAII	W
N. 14	San Diego State	L
N. 21	@FRESNO STATE	L

Coach: Dave Baldwin Colors: Gold, Blue & White

Nickname: Spartans '97 Record: 4-7

Siena Loudonville, NY

S. 12	Sacred Heart	
S. 19	Duquesne	14-38
S. 26	@CANISIUS	41-38
O. 3	Georgetown	10-41
O. 10	@IONA	50-7
O. 16	@ST. PETER'S	42-21
O. 24	@ST. JOHN'S (NY)	12-7
O. 31	Fairfield	16-6
N. 7	@BRYANT COLLEGE	
N. 14	Marist	9-34

Coach: Jack DuBois Colors: Green & Gold

Nickname: Saints '97 Record: 6-3

South Carolina Columbia, SC

S. 5	Baylor State*	W
S. 12	Georgia	L
S. 19	Marshall	L
S. 26	Mississippi State	L
O. 3	@MISSISSIPPI	L
O. 10	@KENTUCKY*	38-24
O. 17	Arkansas	39-13
O. 24	@VANDERBILT	35-3
O. 31	Tennessee	7-22
N. 14	@FLORIDA	L
N. 21	Southwest Texas State	21-47

Coach: Brad Scott Colors: Garnet & Black

Nickname: Gamecocks '97 Record: 5-6

South Carolina St. Orangeburg, SC

S. 5	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	...13-12
S. 12	@FURMAN	...17-6
S. 19	Johnson Smith*	
S. 26	Morgan State	34-27 (OT)
O. 3	@NORFOLK STATE	28-25
O. 10	Bethune-Cookman	17-10
O. 24	Hampton	14-20 (OT)
O. 31	@DELAWARE STATE	37-17
N. 7	Howard	27-18
N. 14	@FLORIDA A&M	20-22
N. 21	North Carolina A&T	33-18

Coach: Jim Leavitt Colors: Green & Gold

Nickname: Bulls '97 Record: 4-6

SE Missouri St. Cape Girardeau, MO

S. 3	Truman	
S. 12	Indiana State	
S. 19	Murray State	3-17
S. 26	Tennessee-Martin*	42-7
O. 3	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	7-32
O. 10	@TENNESSEE TECH	14-17
O. 17	Tennessee State	27-32
O. 24	@SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE	
O. 31	Middle Tennessee State	6-55
N. 7	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	10-20
N. 14	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	28-17

Coach: John Mumford Colors: Red & White

Nickname: Indians '97 Record: 4-7

Southern Baton Rouge, LA

S. 5	@NORTHWESTERN STATE*	...27-9
S. 12	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	36-33 (OT)
S. 19	@PRAIRIE VIEW*	...63-7
S. 26	Alabama State*	27-16
O. 3	Mississippi Valley*	51-30
O. 10	@ALABAMA A&M	
O. 17	Jackson State*	28-8
O. 24	@ALCORN STATE	25-16
O. 31	Florida A&M*	3-33
N. 7	Georgia Southern*	27-18
N. 14	Grambling*	30-7
N. 21	@At New Orleans, LA	

Coach: Pete Richardson Colors: Blue & Gold

Nickname: Panthers '97 Record: 10-1

Southern California Los Angeles (21)
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'98 NCAA schedules

SW Texas St. San Marcos, TX

S. 3	Delta State*
S. 12	@NORTHERN ARIZONA*
S. 19	Hofstra
S. 26	Northwestern State
O. 3	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
O. 17	Nicholls State
O. 24	@TROY STATE
O. 31	Stephen F. Austin
N. 7	@MCNEESE STATE
N. 14	Jacksonville State
N. 21	@SAM HOUSTON STATE

Coach: Bab DeBesse Colors: Maroon & Gold
Nickname: Bobcats '97 Record: 5-6

SW Louisiana Lafayette, LA

S. 5	@ARKANSAS
S. 12	Northwestern State*
S. 19	@LOUISIANA TECH*
S. 26	@SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
O. 3	@ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM
O. 17	Arkansas State
O. 24	Central Florida
O. 31	@TULANE
N. 7	@NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
N. 14	@OKLAHOMA STATE
N. 21	Western Kentucky

Coach: Nelson Stokley Colors: Vermillion & White
Nickname: Ragin' Cajuns '97 Record: 1-10

Stanford Stanford, CA

S. 5	San Jose State
S. 12	Arizona
S. 19	@North Carolina
S. 26	@OREGON
O. 3	@NOTRE DAME
O. 10	Oregon State
O. 17	@ARIZONA STATE
O. 31	@UCLA
N. 7	Southern California
N. 14	Washington State
N. 21	@CALIFORNIA

Coach: Tyrone Willingham Colors: Cardinal & White
Nickname: Cardinals '97 Record: 5-6

Stephen F. Austin Nacogdoches, TX

S. 5	Montana*
S. 12	Tarleton State*
S. 19	@NORTHEAST LOUISIANA*
S. 26	Northern Iowa*
O. 3	@JACKSONVILLE STATE
O. 17	Troy State
O. 24	@MCNEESE STATE
O. 31	@SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE
N. 7	Sam Houston State
N. 14	@NICHOLLS STATE
N. 21	Northwestern State

Coach: John Pearce Colors: Purple & White
Nickname: Lumberjacks '97 Record: 8-3

Syracuse Syracuse, NY

S. 5	Tennessee
S. 12	@MICHIGAN
S. 19	Rutgers
O. 1	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE
O. 17	Cincinnati
O. 24	@BOSTON COLLEGE
O. 31	Pittsburgh
N. 7	@WEST VIRGINIA
N. 14	Virginia Tech
N. 21	@TEMPLE
N. 28	Miami (FL)

Coach: Paul Pasqualoni Colors: Orange & White
Nickname: Orangemen '97 Record: 9-3

Temple Philadelphia, PA

S. 5	@TOLEDO*
S. 12	Akron
S. 19	@BOSTON COLLEGE
S. 26	@MARYLAND
O. 3	William & Mary
O. 10	West Virginia
O. 17	@VIRGINIA TECH
O. 31	@RUTGERS
N. 7	@PITTSBURGH
N. 14	Miami (FL)
N. 21	Syracuse

Coach: Bobby Wallace Colors: Cherry & White
Nickname: Owls '97 Record: 3-8

Tennessee Knoxville, TN

S. 5	@SYRACUSE
S. 12	Florida
S. 19	Houston
S. 26	@AUBURN
O. 3	@GEORGIA
O. 10	Alabama
O. 17	@SOUTH CAROLINA
O. 24	Alabama-Birmingham
O. 31	Arkansas
N. 7	@VANDERBILT
N. 14	Kentucky
N. 21	@TULANE

Coach: Phillip Fulmer Colors: Orange & White
Nickname: Volunteers '97 Record: 11-1

Texas Christian Fort Worth, TX

S. 5	@IOWA STATE
S. 12	Oklahoma
S. 19	Air Force
S. 26	Vanderbilt
O. 3	@SOUTHERN METHODIST
O. 10	Fresno State
O. 17	@COLORADO STATE
O. 24	Wyoming
O. 31	Rice
N. 7	@TULSA
N. 14	@UNLV
N. 21	@TENNESSEE

Coach: Dennis Franchione Colors: Purple & White
Nickname: Horned Frogs '97 Record: 12-3

Tulane New Orleans, LA

S. 3	@CINCINNATI
S. 12	@SOUTHERN METHODIST
S. 19	Navy
S. 26	Southern Mississippi
O. 3	Louisville
O. 10	@RUTGERS
O. 17	Southwestern Louisiana
O. 24	@MEMPHIS
O. 31	@ARMY
N. 7	Houston
N. 14	Louisiana Tech
N. 21	Louisiana Tech

Coach: Tommy Bowden Colors: Olive Green & Sky Blue
Nickname: Green Wave '97 Record: 7-4

Tennessee St. Nashville, TN

S. 5	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
S. 12	@JACKSON STATE
S. 19	Florida A&M
S. 26	Alabama A&M
O. 3	@EASTERN KENTUCKY
O. 10	@GE MISSOURI ST.
O. 17	@TENNESSEE MARTIN
O. 24	Eastern Kentucky
O. 31	@MURRAY STATE
N. 7	@TENNESSEE TECH
N. 14	@MURRAY STATE
N. 21	Texas Southern

Coach: L. C. Cole Colors: Royal Blue & White
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 4-7

Texas Southern Houston, TX

S. 5	Prairie View
S. 12	@ALABAMA STATE
S. 19	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN
S. 26	Howard
O. 3	@JACKSON STATE
O. 10	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
O. 17	@ALCORN STATE
O. 24	Mississippi Valley
O. 31	Grambling
N. 7	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
N. 14	@TENNESSEE STATE
N. 21	Tennessee State

Coach: Bill Thomas Colors: Maroon & Gray
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 5-6

Texas Tech Lubbock, TX

S. 5	UTEP
S. 12	@NORTH TEXAS
S. 19	Fresno State
S. 26	@IOWA STATE
O. 3	Baylor
O. 10	Oklahoma State
O. 17	@COLORADO
O. 24	@TEXAS A&M
O. 31	Missouri
N. 7	Texas
N. 14	@OKLAHOMA
N. 21	@ARLINGTON

Coach: Spike Dykes Colors: Scarlet & Black
Nickname: Red Raiders '97 Record: 6-3

Tennessee Tech Cookeville, TN

S. 3	Kentucky Wesleyan*
S. 12	@ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM
S. 19	Missouri State
S. 26	@EASTERN ILLINOIS
O. 3	Middle Tennessee State
O. 10	Southeast Missouri State
O. 17	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN
O. 24	Eastern Kentucky
O. 31	@MURRAY STATE
N. 7	Tennessee State
N. 14	Samford
N. 21	@CHARLOTTE

Coach: Mike Hennigan Colors: Purple & Gold
Nickname: Golden Eagles '97 Record: 6-5

Tennessee-Martin Martin, TN

S. 3	@WESTERN KENTUCKY
S. 12	Southern Illinois
S. 19	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
S. 26	Missouri State
O. 3	@MURRAY STATE
O. 10	@SAMFORD
O. 17	Tennessee Tech
O. 24	@TENNESSEE STATE
O. 31	Eastern Kentucky
N. 7	Middle Tennessee State
N. 14	Eastern Illinois
N. 21	@ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

Coach: Jim Marshall Colors: Orange, Blue & White
Nickname: Skyhawks '97 Record: 1-10

Toledo Toledo, OH

S. 5	Temple*
S. 12	@OHIO STATE
S. 19	Western Michigan
S. 26	@MIAMI (OH)
O. 3	Ball State
O. 10	Baylor
O. 17	@NEBRASKA
O. 24	Nebraska
O. 31	Ohio State
N. 7	@TEXAS TECH
N. 14	Texas A&M
N. 21	@TEMPLE

Coach: Gary Pinkel Colors: Midnight Blue & Gold
Nickname: Rockets '97 Record: 9-3

Towson Towson, MD

S. 5	Morgan State*
S. 12	@MONMOUTH (NU)
S. 19	Colgate
S. 26	Fordham
O. 3	@HOLY CROSS
O. 10	Lafayette
O. 17	Lehigh
O. 24	St. Mary's (CA)
O. 31	@DAYTON
N. 7	Drake
N. 14	@BUCKNELL
N. 21	@WILLIAM & MARY

Coach: Gordy Combs Colors: White, Gold & Black
Nickname: Tigers '97 Record: 3-7

Troy St. Troy, AL

S. 5	Alabama State*
S. 12	@MARSHALL
S. 19	@CHATTANOOGA
S. 26	Samford
O. 3	@SAM HOUSTON STATE
O. 10	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
O. 17	Stephen F. Austin
O. 24	Southwest Texas State
O. 31	@NORTHWESTERN STATE
N. 7	Nicholls State
N. 14	McNeese State
N. 21	@JACKSONVILLE STATE

Coach: Larry Blakeney Colors: Cardinal, Silver & Black
Nickname: Trojans '97 Record: 5-6

Tulsa Tulsa, OK

S. 5	Southwest Missouri State
S. 12	Oklahoma State
S. 19	@WEST VIRGINIA
S. 26	San Diego State
O. 3	San Diego State
O. 10	@COLORADO STATE
O. 17	Rice
O. 24	Air Force
O. 31	@UNLV
N. 7	Wyoming
N. 14	Tulane
N. 21	Western Wyoming

Coach: David Rader Colors: Crimson, Royal Blue & Gold
Nickname: Golden Hurricane '97 Record: 2-9

UCLA Los Angeles, CA

S. 12	Texas
S. 19	@HOUSTON
S. 26	@MIAMI (FL)
O. 3	Washington State
O. 10	@ARIZONA
O. 17	Oregon
O. 24	@CALIFORNIA
O. 31	Stanford
N. 7	Oregon State
N. 14	@OREGON STATE
N. 21	Washington

Coach: Bob Toledo Colors: Blue & Gold
Nickname: Bruins '97 Record: 9-2

UNLV Las Vegas, NV

S. 5	@NORTHWESTERN
S. 12	Air Force
S. 19	@WISCONSIN
S. 26	@COLORADO STATE
O. 3	Nevada
O. 10	@BRIGHAM YOUNG

UTEP El Paso, TX

S. 5	@TEXAS TECH	L
S. 12	Oregon	L
S. 26	@NEW MEXICO STATE	L
0. 3	Colorado State	L
0. 10	@NEW MEXICO	W
0. 17	San Jose State	W
0. 24	@FRESNO STATE	L
0. 31	Hawaii	W
N. 7	@UTAH	L
N. 14	Brigham Young	L
N. 21	@SAN DIEGO STATE	L

Coach: Charlie Bailey *Colors:* Orange, Blue & White *Nickname:* Miners '97 Record: 4-7

Valparaiso Valparaiso, IN

S. 12	@SOUTH FLORIDA*	
S. 19	Morehead State	24-56
0. 3	@DRAKE	7-27
0. 10	@ROBERT MORRIS	
0. 17	Butler	19-17
0. 24	Dayton	13-34
0. 31	@SAN DIEGO	35-52
N. 7	@ST. JOSEPH'S (IN)	
N. 14	Aurora	7-33
N. 21	Austin Peay	

Coach: Tom Horne *Colors:* Brown & Gold *Nickname:* Crusaders '97 Record: 3-7

Vanderbilt Nashville, TN

S. 5	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	L
S. 12	@ALABAMA	L
S. 19	Mississippi	L
0. 3	@TEXAS CHRISTIAN	L
0. 10	Western Michigan	L
0. 17	@GEORGIA	L
0. 24	South Carolina	W
0. 31	Duke	W
N. 7	Florida	L
N. 14	@KENTUCKY	L
N. 21	Tennessee	L

Coach: Woody Widenhofer *Colors:* Old Gold & Black *Nickname:* Commodores '97 Record: 3-8

Villanova Villanova, PA

S. 5	@PITTSBURGH	
S. 12	Delaware	35-25
S. 19	@JAMES MADISON	49-17
S. 26	William & Mary	20-13
0. 3	@MAINE	34-14
0. 10	@NORTHEASTERN	49-35
0. 24	@MASSACHUSETTS	49-27
0. 31	@FORDHAM	
N. 7	Richmond	40-29
N. 14	Buffalo	42-28
N. 21	Rhode Island	37-15

Coach: Andy Talley *Colors:* Blue & White *Nickname:* Wildcats '97 Record: 12-7

Virginia Charlottesville, VA

S. 3	@AUBURN	W
S. 12	Maryland	W
S. 19	Clemson	L
S. 26	@DUKE	W
0. 3	San Jose State	W
0. 17	@GEORGIA TECH	L
0. 24	North Carolina State	W
0. 31	@WAKE FOREST	W
N. 7	@FLORIDA STATE	L
N. 14	North Carolina	W
N. 28	@VIRGINIA TECH	W

Coach: George Welsh *Colors:* Orange & Blue *Nickname:* Cavaliers '97 Record: 7-4

Virginia Military Lexington, VA

S. 5	Lenoir-Rhyne	
S. 12	@WILLIAM & MARY	12-41
S. 19	@EAST TENNESSEE STATE	7-17
S. 26	Furman	14-35
0. 3	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	0-49
0. 10	Wofford	13-23
0. 17	@CHATTANOOGA	24-27
0. 24	Morehead State	
0. 31	Western Carolina	0-24
N. 7	@APPALACHIAN STATE	7-42
N. 14	Citadel	6-28

Coach: Ted Cain *Colors:* Red, White & Yellow *Nickname:* Keydets '97 Record: 0-11

Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA

S. 5	East Carolina	W
S. 12	@CLEMSON	W
S. 19	@MIAMI (FL)	27-25
S. 26	Pittsburgh	23-30
0. 8	@BOSTON COLLEGE	W
0. 17	Temple	17-7
0. 24	@ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM	31-0
0. 31	*West Virginia	17-80
N. 14	@SYRACUSE	W
N. 21	Rutgers	8-3-0
N. 28	Virginia	20-34

Coach: Frank Beamer *Colors:* Burnt Orange & Chico-
go Maroon *Nickname:* Hokies '97 Record: 6-4

West Virginia Morgantown, WV

S. 5	Ohio State	L
S. 12	Maryland	W
S. 19	UNLV	W
S. 26	Tulsa	W
0. 3	@NAVY	W
0. 10	@TEMPLE	W
0. 17	Temple	28-17
0. 24	Miami (FL)	30-17
N. 7	Syracuse	10-40
N. 14	@RUTGERS	W
N. 21	Boston College	48-0
N. 28	@PITTSTURGH	38-41 (OT)

Coach: Don Nehlen *Colors:* Old Gold & Blue *Nickname:* Mountaineers '97 Record: 8-4

Wisconsin Madison, WI

S. 5	@SAN DIEGO STATE	W
S. 12	Ohio	W
S. 19	UNLV	W
S. 26	Northwestern	W
0. 3	@INDIANA	W
0. 10	Purdue	20-45
0. 17	@ILLINOIS	31-7
0. 24	@IOWA	13-10
N. 7	Minnesota	22-21
N. 14	@MICHIGAN	16-26
N. 21	Penn State	10-35

Coach: Barry Alvarez *Colors:* Cardinal & White *Nickname:* Badgers '97 Record: 8-4

Wagner Staten Island, NY

S. 12	San Diego	29-52
S. 19	@SACRED HEART	
S. 26	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	42-6
0. 3	Robert Morris	9-21
0. 10	St. Peter's	42-14
0. 17	@CENTRAL CONN. ST.	34-23
0. 24	Marist	0-21
0. 31	@STONY BROOK	10-0
N. 7	Monmouth (NJ)	7-51
N. 14	@JACKSONVILLE	

Coach: Walt Hafemeier *Colors:* Green & White *Nickname:* Seahawks '97 Record: 6-4

Western Carolina Cullowhee, NC

S. 5	@DUKE*	L
S. 12	@CITADEL*	
S. 19	East Tennessee State	18-28
S. 26	@FURMAN	17-16
0. 10	Georgia Southern	7-30
0. 17	@WOFFORD	7-17
0. 24	Chattanooga	21-24
0. 31	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	24-0
N. 7	Eton	16-17
N. 14	@TENNESSEE TECH	
N. 21	Appalachian State	7-13

Coach: Bill Bliel *Colors:* Purple & Gold *Nickname:* Catamounts '97 Record: 3-8

Wake Forest Winston-Salem, NC

S. 5	@AIR FORCE	L
S. 10	Navy	W
S. 26	@CLEMSON	3-8-0
0. 3	Appalachian State	L
0. 10	Duke	38-24
0. 17	@MARYLAND	35-17
0. 24	North Carolina	12-30
0. 31	Virginia	13-21
N. 7	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	19-18
N. 14	Florida State	7-58
N. 21	@GEORGIA TECH	26-28

Coach: Jim Caldwell *Colors:* Black & Old Gold *Nickname:* Demon Deacons '97 Record: 5-6

Washington Seattle, WA

S. 5	@ARIZONA STATE	W
S. 12	Brigham Young	W
S. 19	@NEBRASKA	14-20
S. 26	Arizona	14-27
0. 3	@UTAH	W
0. 10	Utah State	45-17
0. 17	California	30-3
0. 24	Oregon State	45-17
0. 31	@SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	27-0
N. 7	Oregon	28-31
N. 14	UCLA	28-52
N. 21	@WASHINGTON STATE	35-41

Coach: Jim Lambright *Colors:* Purple & Gold *Nickname:* Huskies '97 Record: 7-4

Washington St. Pullman, WA

S. 4	Illinois*	W
S. 12	@BOISE STATE	W
S. 19	Idaho	3-8-0
S. 26	@CALIFORNIA	33-7
0. 3	@UCLA	37-34
0. 10	Oregon	24-13
0. 17	Southern California	28-21
0. 31	Arizona State	31-44
N. 7	@ARIZONA	35-34 (OT)
N. 14	@STANFORD	36-28
N. 21	Washington	41-35

Coach: Mike Price *Colors:* Crimson & Gray *Nickname:* Cougars '97 Record: 10-1

Weber St. Ogden, UT

S. 3	Montana Tech*	
S. 12	Humboldt State*	
S. 19	@IDAHO STATE*	26-7
S. 26	Montana*	13-38
0. 3	@SACRAMENTO STATE*	52-14
0. 10	Montana State*	14-28
0. 17	@BOISE STATE*	7-24
0. 24	@PORTLAND STATE*	16-7
0. 31	Cal State Northridge	20-30
N. 7	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	36-23
N. 14	Eastern Washington	11-35

Coach: Jerry Graybeal *Colors:* Royal Purple & White *Nickname:* Wildcats '97 Record: 6-5

Western Illinois Macomb, IL

S. 3	Tennessee-Martin*	W
S. 12	@INDIANA	L
S. 19	@TOLEDO*	L
S. 26	Ohio	7-31
0. 3	Northeast Louisiana	W
0. 10	@VANDERBILT	W
0. 17	Eastern Michigan	41-38
0. 24	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	38-24
0. 31	@KENT	50-27
N. 7	@BALL STATE	21-13
N. 14	Bowling Green	34-21

Coach: Jack Harbaugh *Colors:* Red & White *Nickname:* Hilltoppers '97 Record: 10-2

Western Michigan Kalamazoo, MI

S. 3	Northern Illinois	W
S. 12	@INDIANA	L
S. 19	@TOLEDO*	L
S. 26	Ohio	7-31
0. 3	Northeast Louisiana	W
0. 10	@VANDERBILT	W
0. 17	Eastern Michigan	41-38
0. 24	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	38-24
0. 31	@KENT	50-27
N. 7	@BALL STATE	21-13
N. 14	Bowling Green	34-21

Coach: Gary Darnell *Colors:* Brown & Gold *Nickname:* Broncos '97 Record: 8-3

Western Kentucky Bowling Green, KY

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'97 NCAA Stats

DIVISION I-A INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Passing Efficiency (minimum of 15 attempts per game)

	CLASS	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT PCT	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Cade McNown, UCLA	JR	11	283	173	61.13	5	1.77	2877	10.17	22	7.77	168.6
Ryan Leaf, Washington St.	JR	11	375	210	56.00	10	2.67	3637	9.70	33	8.80	161.2
Joe Germaine, Ohio St.	SR	12	184	119	64.67	7	3.80	1674	9.10	15	8.15	160.4
John Dutton, Nevada	SR	11	367	225	61.31	6	1.63	3526	9.61	20	5.45	156.7
Brock Huard, Washington	SO	10	244	146	59.84	10	4.10	2140	8.77	23	9.43	156.4
Mike Bobo, Georgia	SR	11	306	199	65.03	8	2.61	2751	8.99	19	6.21	155.8
Donovan McNabb, Syracuse	JR	12	265	145	54.72	6	2.26	2488	9.39	20	7.55	154.0
Graham Leigh, New Mexico	JR	12	276	166	60.14	8	2.90	2318	8.40	24	8.70	153.6
Moses Moreno, Colorado St.	SR	12	257	157	61.09	9	3.50	2257	8.78	20	7.78	153.5
Chad Pennington, Marshall	SO	12	428	253	59.11	12	2.80	3480	8.13	39	9.11	151.9
Aaron Brooks, Virginia	JR	11	270	164	60.74	7	2.59	2282	8.45	20	7.41	151.0
Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech	SO	11	477	293	61.43	10	2.10	3881	8.14	34	7.13	149.1
Thad Busby, Florida St.	SR	11	390	235	60.26	10	2.56	3317	8.51	25	6.41	147.7
Peyton Manning, Tennessee	SR	12	477	287	60.17	11	2.31	3819	8.01	36	7.55	147.7
Daunte Culpepper, Central Florida	JR	11	381	238	62.47	10	2.62	3086	8.10	25	6.56	146.9
Pete Gonzalez, Pittsburgh	SR	11	345	198	57.39	7	2.03	2657	7.70	30	8.70	146.7
Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech	SO	11	268	173	64.55	7	2.61	2314	8.63	12	4.48	146.6
Jason Maas, Oregon	JR	9	172	95	55.23	8	4.65	1443	8.39	15	8.72	145.2
Nealor Greene, Clemson	SR	11	265	169	63.77	8	3.02	2126	8.02	16	6.04	145.1
Mike McQuerry, Penn St.	SR	11	255	146	57.25	9	3.53	2211	8.67	17	6.67	145.0
Tim Couch, Kentucky	SO	11	547	363	66.36	19	3.47	3884	7.10	37	6.76	141.4
Corby Jones, Missouri	JR	11	191	102	53.40	6	3.14	1658	8.68	12	6.28	140.8
Brian Griese, Michigan	SR	11	277	175	63.18	5	1.81	2042	7.37	14	5.05	138.2
Tim Lester, Western Michigan	SO	10	268	154	57.46	11	4.10	2160	8.06	17	6.34	137.9
Jose Davis, Kent	SO	10	365	194	53.15	14	3.84	2707	7.42	32	8.77	136.7
Chris Keldorf, North Caro.	SR	9	181	104	57.46	9	4.97	1448	8.00	12	6.63	136.6

Total Offense

CL	G	RUSHING			PASSING			TOTAL OFFENSE					
		CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	TDR*	YDS/G	
Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech	SO	11	64	233	146	87	477	3881	541	3968	7.33	35	360.73
Tim Couch, Kentucky	SO	11	66	139	264	-125	547	3884	613	3759	6.13	40	341.73
Ryan Leaf, Washington St.	JR	11	72	176	230	-54	375	3637	447	3583	8.02	39	325.73
Daunte Culpepper, Central Florida	JR	11	136	677	239	438	381	3086	517	3524	6.82	30	320.36
John Dutton, Nevada	SR	11	44	134	138	-4	367	3526	411	3522	8.57	21	320.18
Peyton Manning, Tennessee	SR	12	49	103	133	-30	477	3819	526	3789	7.20	39	315.75
Charlie Batch, Eastern Michigan	SR	11	85	327	217	110	434	3280	519	3390	6.53	24	308.18
Thad Busby, Florida St.	SR	11	57	132	148	-16	390	3317	447	3301	7.38	27	300.09
Jose Davis, Kent	SO	10	50	305	129	176	365	2707	415	2883	6.95	35	288.30
Jon Denton, UNLV	SO	9	64	204	199	5	374	2586	438	2591	5.92	21	287.89
Chad Pennington, Marshall	SO	12	55	104	163	-59	428	3480	483	3421	7.08	40	285.08
Billy Dicken, Purdue	SR	11	89	428	120	308	373	2811	462	3119	6.75	24	283.55
Shaun King, Tulane	JR	11	124	601	90	511	363	2567	487	3078	6.32	29	279.82
Dameyune Craig, Auburn	SR	12	96	312	312	0	403	3277	499	3277	6.57	22	273.08
Chris Redman, Louisville	SO	11	47	95	216	-121	445	3079	492	2958	6.01	18	268.91
Brian Brennan, Idaho	SR	10	46	122	162	-40	387	2708	433	2668	6.16	20	266.80
Chris Wallace, Toledo	JR	12	98	458	226	232	433	2955	531	3187	6.00	29	265.58
Cade McNown, UCLA	JR	11	65	217	192	25	283	2877	348	2902	8.34	25	263.82
Matt Sauk, Utah St.	SR	11	64	180	178	2	378	2896	442	2898	6.56	22	263.45
Pete Gonzalez, Pittsburgh	SR	11	91	364	195	169	345	2657	436	2826	6.48	33	256.91
Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech	SO	11	140	687	209	478	268	2314	408	2792	6.84	17	253.82
Justin Vedder, California	JR	11	99	288	263	25	390	2718	489	2743	5.61	20	249.36
Sam Ricketts, Miami (OH)	SR	11	76	413	140	273	324	2466	400	2739	6.85	19	249.00
Mike Bobo, Georgia	SR	11	40	48	118	-70	306	2751	346	2681	7.75	20	243.73
John Hessler, Colorado	SR	11	75	338	150	188	338	2478	413	2666	6.46	19	242.36
Donovan McNabb, Syracuse	JR	12	110	663	259	404	265	2488	375	2892	7.71	26	241.00

*Touchdowns responsible for: TDs scored or passed for

All-Purpose Running

CLASS	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	YDS	YDS/G	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	JR	11	190	1707	6	241	2144	194.91	130	16.49
Ricky Williams, Texas	JR	11	1893	150	0	0	2043	185.73	299	6.83
Kevin Faulk, LSU	JR	9	1144	93	192	217	1646	182.89	244	6.75
Randy Moss, Marshall	SO	12	2	1647	266	263	2178	181.50	129	16.88
Michael Perry, Rice	JR	10	1034	44	26	680	1784	178.40	197	9.06
Tutu Atwell, Minnesota	SR	12	77	924	296	776	2073	172.75	120	17.27
Jerome Pathon, Washington	SR	11	0	1245	209	386	1840	167.27	104	17.69
Tavian Banks, Iowa	SR	11	1639	200	0	0	1839	167.18	264	6.97
Ahman Green, Nebraska	JR	12	1877	105	0	0	1882	165.17	292	6.79
Sedrick Irvin, Michigan St.	SO	11	1211	339	263	0	1813	164.82	290	6.25
Saladin McCullough, Oregon	SR	11	1193	160	0	441	1794	163.09	287	6.25
J.R. Redmond, Arizona St.	SO	10	865	186	236	303	1590	159.00	195	8.15
Amos Zereoue, West Virginia	SO	10	1505	76	0	0	1581	158.10	275	5.75
Savon Edwards, Eastern Mich.	SR	10	627	444	0	486	1557	155.70	195	7.98
Tony Horne, Clemson	SR	11	7	897	298	491	1693	153.91	121	13.99
Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	SO	10	1421	117	0	0	1538	153.80	259	5.94
Tyrone Watley, Iowa St.	SR	11	0	827	12	852	1691	153.73	91	18.58
Dwayne Harris, Toledo	JR	10	1278	229	0	28	1535	153.50	271	5.66
Travis Prentice, Miami (OH)	SO	11	1549	138	0	0	1687	153.36	319	5.29
Troy Walters, Stanford	JR	11	7	1206	424	41	1664	151.27	121	13.75
Curtis Enis, Penn St.	JR	11	1363	215	0	0	1578	143.45	253	6.24
John Avery, Mississippi	SR	9	862	113	0	315	1290	143.33	198	6.52
Demond Parker, Oklahoma	SO	9	1143	140	0	0	1283	142.56	205	6.26

Receptions Per Game

CLASS	G	CT	YDS	TD	CT/G
Eugene Baker, Kent	JR	11	103	1549	18 9.36
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	JR	11	102	1707	13 9.27
Troy Walters, Stanford	JR	11	86	1206	8 7.82
Geoff Noisy, Nevada	JR	11	86	1184	5 7.82
Randy Moss, Marshall	SO	12	90	1647	25 7.50
Siaha Burley, Central Florida	JR	11	77	1106	7 7.00
Antonio Wilson, Idaho	SR	11	77	910	10 7.00
Bobby Shaw, California	SR	11	75	1093	6 6.82
Nakia Jenkins, Utah St.	SR	11	73	1086	6 6.64
Craig Yeast, Kentucky	JR	11	73	873	10 6.64
Desmond Clark, Wake Forest	JR	11	72	950	5 6.55
Marcus Nash, Tennessee	SR	12	76	1170	13 6.33
Jerome Pathon, Washington	JR	11	69	1245	8 6.27
Tony Horne, Clemson	SR	11	68	897	8 6.18
Miguel Montano, Louisville	SR	11	67	875	1 6.09
Damon Savage, Tulsa	SO	11	66	1084	6 6.00
Shawn Foreman, West Virginia	JR	11	65	818	5 5.91

Interceptions

CLASS	G	NO	YDS	TD	I/G
Brian Lee, Wyoming	SR	11	8	103	1 0.73
Cedric Donaldson, LSU	SR	11	7	192	2 0.64
John Noel, Louisiana Tech	SR	11	7	93	0 0.64
Omar Smith, San Jose St.	JR	11	7	80	0 0.64
Tevell Jones, Ohio	SR	11	7	36	0 0.64
Samari Rolle, Florida St					

I-A INDIVIDUAL

Punt Returns (minimum 1.2 returns per game)

	CLASS	NO	YDS	TD	Avg
Tim Dwight, Iowa	SR	19	367	3	19.32
R.W. McQuarters, Okl. St.	JR	32	521	1	16.28
Steve Smith, Utah St.	SR	22	344	2	15.64
Nod Washington, Miami (OH)	JR	12	185	0	15.42
Geoff Turner, Colorado St.	SR	20	304	1	15.20
Dee Feaster, Florida St.	JR	14	212	0	15.00
Quinton Spotwood, Syracuse	SO	31	463	4	14.94
Tinker Keck, Cincinnati	JR	39	575	4	14.74
Steve Neal, Western Mich.	SO	14	204	1	14.57
Jacquez Green, Florida	JR	27	392	2	14.52
Arnold Jackson, Louisville	SO	15	215	1	14.33
Terry Fair, Tennessee	SR	19	272	0	14.32
Troy Walters, Stanford	JR	30	424	2	14.13
Shawn Sims, Washington St.	SR	29	403	1	13.90
Kevin Faulk, LSU	JR	14	192	0	13.71
David Allen, Kansas St.	FR	30	403	1	13.43
Peter Warrick, Florida St.	SO	29	388	1	13.38
Sedrick Irvin, Michigan St.	SO	20	263	1	13.15
Tutu Atwell, Minnesota	SR	23	296	0	12.87
Eric Lewis, San Diego St.	JR	17	214	1	12.59

Punting (minimum 3.6 punts per game)

	CLASS	G	NO	YDS	Avg
Chad Kessler, LSU	SR	10	39	1961	50.28
John Baker, North Texas	SO	11	62	2925	47.18
Shane Lechler, Texas A&M	SO	12	56	2631	46.98
Brad Hill, Tulane	SR	11	42	1940	46.19
Chad Shoutz, Hawaii	SO	12	68	3133	46.07
Rodney Williams, Georgia Tech	JR	10	47	2145	45.64
Jeff Walker, Mississippi St.	SO	11	45	2049	45.53
Aron Langley, Wyoming	JR	13	79	3568	45.16
Brent Bartholomew, Ohio St.	JR	12	65	2934	45.14
Jimmy Kibble, Virginia Tech So	SO	11	50	2255	45.10
Jerry Arguello, Utah St.	JR	11	53	2374	44.79
Kevin Stemke, Wisconsin	JR	12	49	2154	43.96
Jason Davis, Oklahoma St.	SR	11	50	2195	43.90
Marek Butcher, Central Fla.	SR	11	49	2149	43.86
Jeff Banks, Washington St.	SR	11	50	2189	43.78
Mike Hayes, Akron	JR	11	53	2319	43.75
James Garcia, Kansas St.	JR	11	47	2054	43.70
Jeff Roberts, Fresno St.	JR	12	72	3146	43.69

Field Goals

	CLASS	G	FGA	FG	PCT	FG/G
Brad Palazzo, Tulane	JR	11	28	23	.821	2.09
Colby Cason, New Mexico	SR	12	30	21	.700	1.75
Martin Gramatica, Kansas St.	JR	11	20	19	.950	1.73
Shayne Graham, Virginia Tech	SO	11	23	19	.826	1.73
Chris Sailer, UCLA	JR	11	24	19	.792	1.73
Brian Gowins, Northwestern	SR	12	27	20	.741	1.67
Kris Brown, Nebraska	JR	12	21	18	.857	1.50
Kyle Bryant, Texas A&M	SR	12	22	18	.818	1.50
Sims Lenhardt, Duke	SO	11	20	16	.800	1.45
Sebastian Janikowski, Fla. St.	FR	11	21	16	.762	1.45
Sebastian Villarreal, Houston	SR	11	21	16	.762	1.45
Robert Nycz, Arizona St.	SR	11	23	16	.696	1.45
Brian Hazelwood, Miss. St.	JR	11	26	16	.615	1.45
Todd Belcastro, Boise St.	JR	11	20	15	.750	1.36
Andy Payne, Indiana	SO	11	22	15	.682	1.36
Matthew Burdick, Wake Forest	SO	11	23	15	.652	1.36
Tim Sydes, Oklahoma St.	SO	11	24	15	.625	1.36

Kickoff Returns (minimum 1.2 returns per game)

	CLASS	NO	YDS	TD	Avg
Eric Booth, Southern Miss.	SR	22	766	2	34.82
Ben Kelly, Colorado	FR	25	777	1	31.08
Pat McGrew, Navy	SR	15	441	0	29.40
Boo Williams, South Caro.	SO	18	527	2	29.28
Pat Johnson, Oregon	SR	16	462	0	28.88
Allen Rossm, Notre Dame	SR	20	570	2	28.50
Ketric Sanford, Houston	SO	19	530	0	27.89
Tony Horne, Clemson	SR	18	491	0	27.28
Damon Dunn, Stanford	SR	21	566	0	26.95
Tyrone Carter, Minnesota	SO	17	455	0	26.76
Fernando Bryant, Alabama	JR	16	427	0	26.69
Sean Williams, Ohio	SR	18	475	0	26.39
R Jay Soward, Southern Cal	SO	15	394	1	26.27
Az Hakim, San Diego St.	SR	14	367	1	26.21
Myles Savage, Wake Forest	SR	20	524	1	26.20
Demario Jones, Miami (OH)	FR	20	522	1	26.10
Joe Walker, Nebraska	FR	15	389	0	25.93

DIVISION I-A TEAM LEADERS

Rushing Offense

	G	CAR	YDS	Avg	TD	YDS/G
Nebraska	12	755	4711	6.2	66	392.6
Rice	11	690	3660	5.3	38	332.7
Navy	11	618	3370	5.5	36	306.4
Ohio	11	649	3321	5.1	32	301.9
Army	11	670	3247	4.8	24	295.2
Missouri	11	592	2899	4.9	35	263.5
LSU	11	521	2823	5.4	34	256.6
Iowa	11	492	2585	5.3	25	235.0
Air Force	12	688	2791	4.1	22	232.6
Oklahoma St.	11	592	2486	4.2	25	226.0
Akron	11	504	2431	4.8	22	221.0
Kansas St.	11	541	2422	4.5	29	220.2
Colorado St.	12	484	2631	5.4	30	219.3
Cincinnati	11	593	2371	4.0	22	215.5
Virginia Tech	11	548	2368	4.3	22	215.3
Penn St.	11	448	2295	5.1	30	208.6
Miami (OH)	11	482	2285	4.7	33	207.7
Oklahoma	12	591	2491	4.2	25	207.6
New Mexico	12	541	2476	4.6	21	206.3
Texas A&M	12	492	2465	5.0	34	205.4

Turnover Margin

	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN
Colorado St.	20	18	38	4	9	13	2.08
UCLA	18	21	39	14	5	19	1.82
Texas A&M	22	11	33	11	4	15	1.50
Florida St.	10	22	32	6	11	17	1.36
Tulane	8	26	34	6	14	20	1.27
SMU	12	15	27	7	7	14	1.18
Oklahoma St.	14	15	29	8	8	16	1.18
Navy	13	14	27	6	8	14	1.18
Texas Tech	13	13	26	8	6	14	1.09
Purdue	11	20	31	5	14	19	1.09
LSU	12	14	26	7	7	14	1.09
Fresno St.	12	17	29	9	7	16	1.08
Iowa	10	22	32	11	11	22	0.91
Syracuse	11	16	27	9	8	17	0.83
Southern Cal	10	14	24	4	11	15	0.82
Michigan	4	22	26	12	5	17	0.82
New Mexico	13	16	25	11	9	20	0.75
Toledo	13	12	25	7	9	16	0.75
Northwestern	17	10	27	10	8	18	0.75

Rushing Defense

	G	CAR	YDS	Avg	TD	YDS/G
Florida St.	11	379	571	1.5	10	51.9
Florida	11	362	778	2.1	12	70.7
Nebraska	12	407	881	2.2	12	73.4
North Carolina	11	371	857	2.3	5	77.9
Cincinnati	11	338	930	2.8	10	84.5
Clemson	11	362	971	2.7	10	88.3
Michigan	11	368	1001	2.7	6	91.0
Tennessee	12	382	1119	2.9	11	93.3
Southern Cal	11	381	1032	2.7	12	93.8
Wake Forest	11	364	1057	2.9	11	96.1
Iowa	11	408	1161	2.8	6	105.5
Arizona	11	411	1164	2.8	17	105.8
Vanderbilt	11	415	1169	2.8	8	106.3
Southern Miss.	11	367	1184	3.2	8	107.6
UCLA	11	380	1191	3.1	11	108.3
Syracuse	12	443	1317	3.0	15	109.8
Mississippi St.	11	373	1216	3.3	7	110.5
Navy	11	404	1233	3.1	7	112.1

Total Offense

	G	PLAYS	YDS	Avg	TD*	YDS/G
Michigan	11	660	2276	3.4	10	206.9
North Carolina	11	693	2302	3.3	12	209.3
Florida St.	11	717	2655	3.7	22	241.4
Kansas St.	11	702	2825	4.0	17	256.8
Nebraska	12	717	3088	4.3	25	257.3
Navy	11	642	2863	4.5	24	260.3
Iowa	11	733	2927	4.0	18	266.1
Ohio St.	12	820	3215	3.9	13	267.9
Vanderbilt	11	704	3026	4.3	22	275.1
Air Force	12	756	3471	4.6	16	289.3
Syracuse	12	769	3482	4.5	23	290.2
Florida	11	754	3195	4.2	23	290.5
Michigan St.	11	716	3312	4.6	17	301.1
Oklahoma St.	11	678	3330	4.9	26	302.7
Michigan (OH)	11	745	3374	4.5	29	306.7
Clemson	11	721	3438	4.8	19	312.5
Utah	11	736	3440	4.7	25	312.7

Scoring Offense

	G	PTS	Avg	TD
Nebraska	12	565	47.1	73
Washington St.	11	467	42.5	62
UCLA	11	448	40.7	56
Florida St.	11	437	39.7	55
Marshall				

'97 NCAA Stats

DIVISION I-AA INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Passing Efficiency (minimum of 15 attempts per game)

	CLASS	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT PCT	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Alli Abrew, Cal Poly SLO	SR	11	191	130	68.06	4	2.09	1961	10.27	17	8.90	179.5
Doug Turner, Morehead St.	SR	10	290	190	65.52	6	2.07	2869	9.89	29	10.00	177.5
Chris Boden, Villanova	SO	11	345	231	66.96	4	1.16	3079	8.92	36	10.43	174.0
Harry Leons, Eastern Washington	SR	10	257	159	61.87	5	1.95	2588	10.07	21	8.17	169.5
Simon Fuentes, Eastern Ky.	SR	11	189	116	61.38	2	1.06	1932	10.22	13	6.88	167.8
Giovanni Carmazzi, Hofstra	JR	11	408	288	70.59	8	1.96	3554	8.71	27	6.62	161.7
Mike Stadler, San Diego	SO	11	262	152	58.02	10	3.82	2287	8.73	30	11.45	161.5
Todd Wells, East Tenn. St.	FR	11	247	144	58.30	9	3.64	2404	9.73	17	6.88	155.5
Shane Stafford, Connecticut	SR	11	298	164	55.41	10	3.38	2814	9.51	23	7.77	154.1
Brian Ginn, Delaware	SO	10	178	97	54.49	3	1.69	1622	9.11	14	7.87	153.6
Ben Anderson, Liberty	SR	11	268	152	56.72	10	3.73	2505	9.35	18	6.72	149.9
Rob Compson, Montana St.	JR	11	295	179	60.68	9	3.05	2388	8.09	22	7.46	147.2
Kevin Johns, Dayton	SR	10	175	92	52.57	7	4.00	1531	8.75	15	8.57	146.3
Blake Prejean, McNeese St.	SO	11	265	160	60.38	9	3.40	2412	9.10	13	4.91	146.2
Oteman Sampson, Florida A&M	SR	11	379	215	56.73	10	2.64	3290	8.68	25	6.60	146.1
Aaron Flowers, CS Northridge	SR	9	404	255	63.12	10	2.48	3226	7.99	24	5.94	144.8
Mike Simpson, Eastern Illinois	SR	11	246	168	68.29	8	3.25	1914	7.78	13	5.28	144.6
Ryan Vena, Colgate	SO	11	222	129	58.11	12	5.41	1882	8.48	17	7.66	143.8
Demond Tidwell, Youngstown St.	SR	11	178	113	63.48	6	3.37	1583	8.89	6	3.37	142.6
Brian Ah Yat, Montana	JR	10	357	216	60.50	6	1.68	2691	7.54	21	5.88	139.9
Dan Sabella, Monmouth	SR	9	277	168	60.65	6	2.17	1950	7.04	18	6.50	136.9
Jeff Hecklinski, Western Illinois	SR	11	257	167	64.98	6	2.33	1897	7.38	10	3.89	135.2
Bake Baker, Appalachian St.	SR	11	347	207	59.65	8	2.31	2550	7.35	18	5.19	133.9
Peyton Jones, S.F. Austin	SO	11	203	100	49.26	9	4.43	1776	8.75	12	5.91	133.4
Jonathan Quinn, Middle Tenn. St.	SR	10	293	167	57.00	10	3.41	2209	7.54	16	5.46	131.5

Total Offense

CL	RUSHING				PASSING				TOTAL OFFENSE				
	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	TD/R	YDS/G	
Aaron Flowers, CS Northridge	SR	9	52	76	170	-94	404	3226	456	3132	6.87	26	348.00
Giovanni Carmazzi, Hofstra	JR	11	116	351	198	153	408	3554	524	3707	7.07	36	337.00
Oteman Sampson, Florida A&M	SR	11	113	551	216	335	379	3290	492	3625	7.37	27	329.55
Travis Brown, Northern Arizona	SO	11	49	98	130	-32	474	3395	523	3363	6.43	23	305.73
James Perry, Brown	SO	10	50	181	114	67	397	2873	447	2940	6.58	25	294.00
Mickey Fein, Maine	JR	10	55	105	138	-33	414	2912	469	2879	6.14	30	287.90
Chris Boden, Villanova	SO	11	55	164	163	1	345	3079	400	3080	7.70	36	280.00
Chad Salisbury, Buffalo	JR	10	24	8	100	-92	384	2889	408	2797	6.86	16	279.70
Doug Turner, Morehead St.	SR	10	54	94	177	-83	290	2869	344	2786	8.10	30	278.60
Montressa Kirby, Jacksonville St.	JR	11	75	247	139	108	419	2817	494	2925	5.92	19	265.91
Brian Ah Yat, Montana	JR	10	55	107	217	-110	357	2691	412	2581	6.26	23	258.10
Todd Wells, East Tenn. St.	FR	11	123	499	140	359	247	2404	370	2763	7.47	23	251.18
Harry Leons, Eastern Washington	SR	10	30	10	88	-78	257	2588	287	2510	8.75	21	251.00
Steve Buck, Weber St.	JR	10	77	352	239	113	299	2393	376	2506	6.66	17	250.60
Shane Stafford, Connecticut	SR	11	41	59	144	-85	296	2814	337	2729	8.10	23	248.09
Shane Fortney, Northern Iowa	SR	11	62	219	122	97	349	2558	411	2655	6.46	16	241.36
Bake Baker, Appalachian St.	SR	11	76	240	173	67	347	2550	423	2617	6.19	24	237.91
Jonathan Quinn, Middle Tenn. St.	SR	10	66	305	135	170	293	2209	359	2379	6.63	20	237.90
Rich Linden, Harvard	SO	10	99	352	143	209	286	2099	385	2308	5.99	21	230.80
Darnell Kennedy, Alabama St.	FR	11	72	261	153	108	388	2395	460	2503	5.44	17	227.55
Jim Murphy, Northeastern	SR	11	82	296	236	60	333	2417	415	2477	5.97	19	225.18
Ted White, Howard	JR	11	86	216	328	-112	333	2581	419	2469	5.89	21	224.45
Eli Stoddard, Butler	SR	10	67	185	61	124	332	2118	399	2242	5.62	14	224.20
Sean Laird, St. Mary's (CA)	SR	10	104	531	255	276	321	1962	425	2238	5.27	24	223.80
Robert Morris, Norfolk St.	SR	10	94	344	224	120	359	2116	453	2236	4.94	18	223.60

*Touchdowns responsible for: TDs scored or passed for

All-Purpose Running

CLASS	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	YDS*	YDS/G	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	TD	YDS/G
Reggie Greene, Siena	SR	9	1778	73	0	158	2009	223.22	273	7.36		
Sean Bennett, Evansville	JR	10	1668	260	81	34	2043	204.30	267	7.65		
Aaron Stecker, Western Ill.	JR	11	1957	288	0	0	2245	204.09	326	6.89		
Jerry Azumah, New Hampshire	JR	11	1572	297	0	351	2220	201.82	307	7.23		
Sean Morey, Brown	JR	10	15	1427	15	465	1922	192.20	103	18.66		
Rick Sariel, Wagner	JR	10	1285	85	0	514	1884	188.40	270	6.98		
Stan House, Central Conn. St.	SR	10	1413	357	16	23	1809	180.90	350	5.17		
Chris Berry, Morehead St.	SR	10	401	1016	273	115	1805	180.50	137	13.18		
Delvin Joyce, James Madison	FR	9	422	197	289	656	1564	173.78	183	8.55		
Rex Prescott, Eastern Wash.	SR	10	1494	223	0	0	1717	171.70	229	7.50		
Tom Reali, St. Peter's	SR	10	893	257	0	535	1685	168.50	261	6.46		
Claude Mathis, Southwest Texas	SR	11	1595	42	0	162	1799	163.55	325	5.54		
Kino Carson, Northern Arizona	SR	11	1099	169	165	362	1795	163.18	278	6.46		
Chris Menick, Harvard	SO	10	1267	123	0	214	1604	160.40	274	5.85		
T. Butterfield, Tennessee St.	JR	11	13	1053	44	619	1703	154.82	96	17.74		
Ed Williams, St. Mary's (CA)	SR	10	744	219	162	384	1509	150.90	242	6.24		
Joe Rosato, Duquesne	SR	10	4	698	391	418	1503	150.30	102	14.74		
Jason Corle, Towson	SO	10	1075	390	0	0	1465	146.50	290	5.05		
Anthony Ravizee, Morehead St.	SR	10	1197	220	0	0	1417	141.70	232	6.11		
Mike Furrey, Northern Iowa	JR	11	7	1291	146	106	1550	140.91	100	15.50		
Anthony Stringfield, E. Tenn St.	SR	11	7	638	332	584	1547	140.64	98	15.79		
Marquis Mosely, Illinois St.	SR	11	22	875	110	535	1542	140.18	99	15.58		
Jason Grove, Drake	JR	11	1374	59	99	0	1532	139.27	315	4.86		
Stephon Hawkins, Chattanooga	SO	11	0	885	229	407	1521	138.27	80	19.01		
Alvin Porch, William & Mary	SR	11	1316	195	0	9	1520	138.18	286	5.31		

*Includes INT-return yards

Receptions Per Game

CLASS	G	CT	YDS	TD	CT/G	
Eric Krawczyk, Cornell	SR	10	89	1042	11	8.90
Rameek Wright, Maine	SR	11	88	1176	7	8.00
Mike Furrey, Northern Iowa	JR	11	82	1291	7	7.45
Bryan Kish, Hofstra	SR	11	82	1084	7	7.45
Sean Morey, Brown	JR	10	73	1427	15	7.30
Shane Sullivan, St. Marys (CA)	SR	10	72	832	6	7.20
Jerome Henry, CS Northridge	SR	10	71	827	8	7.10
Wayne Yearwood, Hofstra	SR	11	76	973	12	6.91
Brian Finneran, Villanova	SR	11	75	1151	17	6.82
Eric Pearsall, Northern Arizona	SR	9	60	765	1	6.67
Corey Hill, Colgate	JR	11	69	1038	10	6.27
Vince Tweddell, Evansville	JR	10	62	908	4	6.20
B.J. Adigun, East Tenn. St.	SR	11	68	1389	12	6.18
Drew Haddad, Buffalo	SO	11	67	1058	3	6.09
Drew Hill, Cal St. Northridge	FR	12	69	882	3	5.75

Interceptions

CLASS	G	NO	YDS	TD	I/G
Roderic Parson, Brown	SR				

I-AA INDIVIDUAL

Punt Returns (minimum 1.2 returns per game)

CLASS	NO	YDS	TD	Avg
Chris Berry, Morehead St.	SR	13	273	1
Delvin Joyce, James Madison	FR	17	289	0
Lyell Finley, Norfolk St.	SR	18	286	0
Chris Caldwell, North Carolina A&T	FR	23	361	1
Byron Plummer, Ala. St.	JR	14	219	1
Trevor Bell, Idaho St.	SR	17	236	1
Joey Jamison, Texas Southern	JR	14	189	2
Jamaaine Blalock, Western Ill.	SR	18	241	1
Tony Young, Wofford	JR	12	160	1
Ed Wynne, Cal Poly SLO	JR	24	319	0
Donnie Davis, Eastern Ill.	JR	13	172	0
Damon Felder, Alcorn St.	SO	20	263	1
Chris Allen, Cornell	SR	13	169	1
Kwanza Golden, Miss. Valley	SO	22	280	0
Derrick Brown, Maine	JR	20	250	0
Johnny Loper, South Caro. St.	SO	21	254	1
				12.10

Punting (minimum 3.6 punts per game)

CLASS	G	NO	YDS	Avg
Barry Cantrell, Fordham	SR	11	65	2980
Chad Stanley, Stephen F. Austin	JR	11	62	2771
Brad Costello, Boston U.	SR	11	73	3239
Ken Hinsley, Western Carolina	JR	11	46	2032
Steve Thoms, CS Sacramento	JR	11	66	2907
Nelson Garner, James Madison	SR	11	70	3059
Clay Williams, Charleston So. JR	10	79	3448	43.65
Justin Terrill, Southeast Mo. SR	JR	11	72	3134
Jon Amitrano, Southern Ill. JR	JR	11	71	3040
Scott Shields, Weber St.	JR	11	48	2042
Tom Zurfluh, Eastern Wash.	SR	11	46	1954
Jason Christopher, Rhode Island	SO	11	62	2627
Darrin Ford, Florida A&M	SR	11	40	1685
Scott White, Delaware	SR	11	57	2393
Quinn Guidry, Nicholls St.	JR	11	63	2635
Tim Roth, San Diego	SR	11	54	2236
Ryan Klaus, Sam Houston	JR	11	59	2437
Jake Strader, Illinois St.	FR	11	61	2508
Matt Evans, Princeton	JR	10	74	3042
Jake Denney, Montana	SR	11	65	2660
				40.92

Field Goals

CLASS	G	FGA	FG	PCT	FG/G
Travis Brawner, Southwest Mo. So.	11	28	21	.750	1.91
Alex Sierk, Princeton	JR	10	21	.857	1.80
Juan Torro, Florida A&M	JR	11	21	.717	1.05
Dave Ettinger, Hofstra	SR	11	22	.773	1.55
Scott Shields, Weber St.	JR	11	25	.680	1.55
Shonz LaFrenz, McNeese St. SO	11	26	17	.654	1.55
Brian Shallcross, Wm. & Mary	SR	11	18	.833	1.36
Steve Riggs, South Fla.	SR	11	23	.652	1.36
Ryan Smith, Stephen F. Austin	SR	11	18	.778	1.27
Mark Goldstein, Northern Ariz.	FR	10	21	.571	1.20
Nelson Garner, James Mad.	SR	11	18	.722	1.18
James Ferrell, Idaho St.	SR	11	19	.684	1.18
Rob Hart, Murray St.	SR	11	23	.565	1.18
Ramone Rivera, Texas Southern	JR	11	25	.520	1.18
John McCombs, Cornell	SO	10	15	.733	1.10
Jeff Poisel, Western Ky.	SO	10	16	.688	1.10

Kickoff Returns (minimum 1.2 returns per game)

CLASS	NO	YDS	TD	Avg
Andy Swafford, Troy St.	SR	14	440	1
Sylvester Miller, St. Peter's	FR	15	442	2
Marq Cerqua, Furman	SO	12	350	1
Rick Saraille, Wagner	JR	18	514	2
James Banks, Ga. Southern	SO	12	335	1
Joe Rosato, Duquesne	SR	15	418	0
Jermaine Clemons, South Fla.	SO	14	384	0
Stefpon Hawkins, Chattanooga	SO	15	407	0
Marquis Mosely, Illinois St.	SR	20	535	1
Sam Elliott, Southern Utah	FR	13	344	0
Charles Jackson, Alcorn St. JR	16	406	0	
Darryl Thomas, Massachusetts	SR	19	474	0
John George, Southern	JR	15	374	0
Kenyatta Morgan, Montana St.	SR	12	299	1
T. Butterfield, Tennessee St.	JR	25	619	1
Bobby Washington, Eastern Ky.	SR	19	461	0
Tyree Talton, Northern Iowa	JR	25	604	0
Steve Correa, Eastern Wash.	SR	15	362	1
Tyrone Taylor, CS Sacramento	SR	26	627	1
Ben Christopher, Maine	FR	25	602	0
				24.08

DIVISION I-AA TEAM LEADERS

Rushing Offense

G	CAR	YDS	Avg	TD	YDS/G
Western Ky.	10	610	3660	6.0	39
Southern Utah	11	700	3563	5.1	35
Wofford	10	640	2922	4.6	22
Ga. Southern	11	592	3087	5.2	31
Dayton	10	492	2804	5.7	31
Cal Poly SLO	11	530	2929	5.5	31
Colgate	11	552	2879	5.2	34
Western Ill.	11	509	2686	5.3	35
Siena	9	368	2045	5.6	21
Eastern Wash.	11	458	2489	5.4	22
Youngstown St.	11	565	2488	4.4	37
Drake	11	558	2483	4.4	30
Hampton	11	533	2460	4.6	19
New Hampshire	11	525	2375	4.5	19
Harvard	10	482	2077	4.3	22
Morehead St.	10	447	2041	4.6	29

Turnover Margin

FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN
Texas Southern	18	18	36	10	5	15
Liberty	22	18	40	10	10	20
Georgetown	12	24	36	8	11	19
Indiana St.	12	18	30	9	6	15
Idaho St.	15	17	32	8	11	19
St. John's (NY)	20	11	31	11	7	18
Dayton	4	20	24	6	7	13
Central Conn. St.	14	17	31	10	10	20
Ga. Southern	21	13	34	14	8	22
Bucknell	9	17	26	4	10	14
Lafayette	10	24	34	9	14	23
South Caro. St.	12	17	29	11	7	18
San Diego	12	18	30	9	10	19
Maine	11	19	30	6	14	20
McNeese St.	9	26	35	13	12	25

Rushing Defense

G	CAR	YDS	Avg	TD	YDS/G
Marist	10	319	404	1.3	3
Northeastern	11	355	721	2.0	14
Dartmouth	10	331	773	2.3	9
Eastern Wash.	11	342	896	2.6	10
Harvard	10	308	819	2.7	4
Murray St.	11	417	916	2.2	12
Pennsylvania	10	364	833	2.3	5
Western Ky.	10	299	848	2.8	9
Southern U.	11	370	933	2.5	7
Drake	11	351	961	2.7	4
Delaware	11	386	999	2.6	6
Richmond	11	426	1032	2.4	5
Troy St.	11	402	1058	2.6	8
Northwestern St.	11	360	1059	2.9	8
Hampton	11	385	1067	2.8	7
Princeton	10	374	975	2.6	4
Stephen F. Austin	11	377	1075	2.9	16
McNeese St.	11	390	1086	2.8	6
New Hampshire	11	398	1141	2.9	13
Ga. Southern	11	400	1157	2.9	105.2

Passing Offense

G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	PCT	YDS	Avg	TD	YDS/G
Cal St. Northridge	12	551	344	16	62.4	4297	7.8	30	358.1
Hofstra	11	415	293	8	70.6	3618	8.7	28	328.9
Brown	10	438	229	20	52.3	3192	7.3	26	319.2
Montana	11	476	286	12	60.1	3488	7.3	28	317.1
Florida A&M	11	388	220	10	56.7	3466	8.9	28	315.1
Northern Arizona	11	483	278	19	57.6	3449	7.1	21	313.5
Villanova	11	374	251	4	67.1	3331	8.9	39	302.8
Buffalo	11	453	246	19	54.3	3275	7.2	18	297.7
Maine	11	454	257	14	56.6	3209	7.1	27	291.7
Morehead St.	10	296	192	6	64.9	2914	9.8	29	291.4
Eastern Wash.	11	317	198	7	62.5	3073	9.7	26	279.4
Weber St.	11	422	203	14	48.1	3060	7.3	17	278.2
Tennessee St.	11	371	186	18	50.1	2917	7.9	21	265.2
Jacksonville St.	11	429	221	22	51.5	2897	6.8	18	263.4
Northern Iowa	11	387	203	13	52.5	2881	7.4	21	261.9
Connecticut	11	308	169	10	54.9	2871	9.3	23	261.0
Northeastern	11	386	228	11	59.1	2841	7.4	20	258.3
Jackson St.	11	341	190	17	55.7	2826	8.3	22	256.9
William & Mary	11	361	199	11	55.1	2795	7.7	21	254.1
Lehigh	11	429	255	16	59.4	2771	6.5	24	251.9

Total Offense

G	PLAYS	YDS	Avg	TD*	YDS/G
Eastern Wash.	11	775	5562	7.2	48
Morehead St.	10	743	4955	6.7	58
Brown	10	821	4753	5.8	33
Florida A&M	11	787	5213	6.6	45
Cal St. Northridge	12	920	5480	6.0	45
Western Ky.	10	724	4566	6.3	47
Cal Poly SLO	11	734	5010	6.8	49
Hofstra	11	795	4993	6.3	46
Northern Ariz.	11	876	4927	5.8	47.91
Colgate	11	786	4857	6.2	51
Dayton	10	671	4394	6.5	46
Jackson St.	11	772	4809	6.2	46
East Tenn. St.	11	764	4755	6.2	42
Western Ill.	11	778	4731	6.1	45
Princeton	11	715	2698	3.8	11
Troy St.	11	679	2734	4.0	17
St. John's (NY)	11	742			

1997 College

Division I-A

CONFERENCE OVERALL
W L PCT W L PCT

Atlantic Coast

Florida State	8	0	1.000	11	1	.917
North Carolina	7	1	.875	11	1	.917
Virginia	5	3	.625	7	4	.636
Georgia Tech	5	3	.625	7	5	.583
Clemson	4	4	.500	7	5	.583
North Caro. State	3	5	.375	6	5	.545
Wake Forest	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
Maryland	1	7	.125	2	9	.182
Duke	0	8	.000	2	9	.182

Big East

Syracuse	6	1	.857	9	4	.692
Virginia Tech	5	2	.714	7	5	.583
West Va.	4	3	.571	7	5	.583
Pittsburgh	4	3	.571	6	6	.500
Miami (Fla.)	3	4	.429	5	6	.455
Boston College	3	4	.429	4	7	.364
Temple	3	4	.429	3	8	.273
Rutgers	0	7	.000	0	11	.000

Big Ten

Michigan	8	0	1.000	12	0	1.000
Ohio State	6	2	.750	10	3	.769
Penn State	6	2	.750	9	3	.750
Purdue	6	2	.750	9	3	.750
Wisconsin	5	3	.625	8	5	.615
Iowa	4	4	.500	7	5	.583
Michigan State	4	4	.500	7	5	.583
Northwestern	3	5	.375	5	7	.417
Minnesota	1	7	.125	3	9	.250
Indiana	1	7	.125	2	9	.182
Illinois	0	8	.000	0	11	.000

Big 12

NORTH DIVISION						
Nebraska	8	0	1.000	13	0	1.000
Kansas State	7	1	.875	11	1	.917
Missouri	5	3	.625	7	5	.583
Colorado	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
Kansas	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
Iowa State	1	7	.125	1	10	.091

SOUTH DIVISION						
Texas A&M	6	2	.750	9	4	.692
Oklahoma State	5	3	.625	8	4	.667
Texas Tech	5	3	.625	6	5	.545
Texas	2	6	.250	4	7	.364
Oklahoma	2	6	.250	4	8	.333
Baylor	1	7	.125	2	9	.182

Big West

Utah State	4	1	.800	6	6	.500
Nevada	4	1	.800	5	6	.455
Boise State	3	2	.600	4	7	.364
Idaho	2	3	.400	5	6	.455
North Texas	2	3	.400	4	7	.364
New Mexico State	0	5	.000	2	9	.182

Conference USA

Southern Miss.	6	0	1.000	9	3	.750
Tulane	5	1	.833	7	4	.636
East Carolina	4	2	.667	5	6	.455
Cincinnati	2	4	.333	8	4	.667
Memphis	2	4	.333	4	7	.364
Houston	2	4	.333	3	8	.273
Louisville	0	6	.000	1	10	.091

Mid-American

EAST DIVISION						
Marshall	7	1	.875	10	3	.769
Miami (OH)	6	2	.750	8	3	.727
Ohio	6	2	.750	8	3	.727
Bowling Green	3	5	.375	3	8	.273
Kent	3	5	.375	3	8	.273
Akron	2	6	.250	2	9	.182

WEST DIVISION						
Toledo	7	1	.875	9	3	.818
Western Michigan	6	2	.750	8	3	.727
Ball State	4	4	.500	5	6	.455
Eastern Michigan	3	5	.375	4	7	.364
Central Michigan	1	7	.125	2	9	.182
Northern Illinois	0	8	.000	0	11	.000

Pac-10

Washington State	7	1	.875	10	2	.833
UCLA	7	1	.875	10	2	.833
Arizona State	6	2	.750	9	3	.750
Washington	5	3	.625	8	4	.667
Arizona	4	4	.500	7	5	.583
Hawaii	4	4	.500	6	5	.545
Oregon	3	5	.375	7	5	.583
Stanford	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
California	1	7	.125	3	8	.273
Oregon State	0	8	.000	3	8	.273

Southeastern

EASTERN DIVISION						
Tennessee	7	1	.875	11	2	.846
Florida	6	2	.750	10	2	.833
Georgia	6	2	.750	10	2	.833
South Carolina	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
Kentucky	2	6	.250	5	6	.455
Vanderbilt	0	8	.000	3	8	.273

WESTERN DIVISION						
Auburn	6	2	.750	10	3	.769
LSU	6	2	.750	9	3	.750
Mississippi	4	4	.500	8	4	.667
Mississippi State	4	4	.500	7	4	.636
Arkansas	2	6	.250	4	7	.364
Alabama	2	6	.250	4	7	.364

Gateway

Western Illinois	6	0	1.000	11	2	.846
Northern Iowa	5	1	.833	7	4	.636
Youngstown State	4	2	.667	13	2	.867
Southwest Mo. St.	3	3	.500	5	6	.455
Indiana State	2	4	.333	3	8	.273
Southern Illinois	1	5	.167	3	8	.273
Illinois State	0	6	.000	2	9	.182

Ivy League

EASTERN DIVISION						
Harvard	7	0	1.000	9	1	.900
Dartmouth	6	1	.857	2	8	.200
Pennsylvania	5	2	.714	6	4	.600
Brown	3	4	.429	6	4	.600
Cornell	3	4	.429	5	5	.500
Princeton	2	5	.286	5	5	.500
Yale	0	7	.000	1	9	.100

WESTERN DIVISION						
Harvard	7	0	1.000	9	1	.900
Dartmouth	6	1	.857	2	8	.200
Pennsylvania	5	2	.714	6	4	.600
Brown	3	4	.429	6	4	.600
Cornell	3	4	.429	5	5	.500
Princeton	2	5	.286	5	5	.500
Yale	0	7	.000	1	9	.100

Metro Atlantic Athletic

EASTERN DIVISION						
Hampton	7	0	1.000	10	2	.833
Florida A&M	5	2	.714	9	3	.750
South Caro. State	5	2	.714	9	3	.750
Howard	4	3	.571	7	4	.636
North Caro. A&T	3	4	.429	7	4	.636
Morgan State	2	5	.286	3	7	.300
Bethune-Cookman	1	6	.143	4	7	.364
Delaware State	1	6	.143	3	8	.273
Norfolk State	0	7	.000	2	9	.200

WESTERN DIVISION						
Eastern Kentucky	7	0	1.000	8	5	.615
Eastern Illinois	5	2	.714	8	3	.727
Murray State	5	2	.714	7	4	.636
Tennessee Tech	4	3	.571</td			

Football Recap

Lone Star

Tex. A&M-Kingsville	9	0	1.000	9	2	.818
Angelo State	8	1	.889	10	2	.833
Central Oklahoma	7	2	.778	9	2	.818
West Tex. A&M	6	3	.667	7	4	.636
Abilene Christian	5	4	.556	7	4	.636
Southwestern Okla.	5	4	.556	5	5	.500
Northeastern Okla.	4	4	.500	4	7	.364
Harding	3	5	.375	5	5	.500
Ouachita Baptist	3	5	.375	4	6	.400
Southeastern Okla.	3	5	.375	3	7	.300
Eastern New Mex.	3	6	.333	5	6	.455
Texas A&M-Comm.	3	6	.333	3	8	.273
Tarleton State	3	6	.333	4	7	.364
Midwestern State	3	6	.333	3	7	.300
East Central Okla.	0	8	.000	0	10	.000

Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Northwest Mo. St.	9	0	1.000	12	1	.923
Pittsburg State	8	1	.889	9	2	.818
Mo. Southern St.	6	3	.667	7	3	.700
Truman State	6	3	.667	6	4	.600
Emporia State	5	4	.556	7	4	.636
Central Mo. State	4	5	.444	5	6	.455
Mo. Western State	3	6	.333	5	6	.455
Washburn	2	7	.222	3	8	.273
Missouri-Rolla	2	7	.222	3	8	.273
Southwest Baptist	0	9	.000	0	10	.000

Midwest Intercollegiate Football

Grand Valley State	9	1	.900	9	2	.818
Ashland	9	1	.900	9	2	.818
Saginaw Valley	8	2	.800	9	2	.818
Indianapolis	7	3	.700	8	3	.727
Northern Michigan	6	4	.600	7	4	.636
Hillsdale	4	6	.400	4	7	.364
Ferris State	3	7	.300	3	7	.300
Northwood	3	7	.300	3	7	.300
Wayne State (MI)	3	7	.300	3	8	.273
Michigan Tech	2	8	.200	2	8	.200
St. Francis (IL)	1	9	.100	2	9	.182

North Central Intercollegiate Athletic

Northern Colorado	8	1	.889	13	2	.867
North Dakota State	7	2	.778	9	3	.750
North Dakota	7	2	.778	8	2	.800
Nebraska-Omaha	6	3	.667	8	3	.727
St. Cloud State	5	4	.556	6	5	.545
South Dakota	3	6	.333	5	6	.454
Augustana (SD)	3	6	.333	5	6	.454
South Dakota St.	3	6	.333	4	6	.400
Mankato State	3	6	.333	4	7	.364
Morningside	0	9	.000	0	11	.000

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Athletic

Winona State	6	0	1.000	9	2	.818
Minnesota-Duluth	4	2	.667	4	6	.400
Moorhead State	3	3	.500	5	5	.500
Southwest State	3	3	.500	5	6	.455
Northern State	3	3	.500	4	7	.364
Minnesota-Morris	1	5	.167	3	7	.300
Bemidji State	1	5	.167	2	8	.200

Pennsylvania State Athletic

EASTERN DIVISION						
Bloomsburg	6	0	1.000	8	2	.800
Millersville	4	2	.667	7	3	.700
West Chester	4	2	.667	5	6	.455
Kutztown	3	3	.500	6	4	.600
East Stroudsburg	3	3	.500	4	6	.400
Mansfield	1	5	.167	1	10	.091
Cheyney	0	6	.000	0	11	.000

WESTERN DIVISION

Slippery Rock	6	0	1.000	11	2	.846
Shippensburg	4	2	.667	6	4	.600
Indiana	4	2	.667	5	5	.500
Edinboro	2	4	.333	4	6	.400
Clarion	2	4	.333	3	7	.300
Lock Haven	2	4	.333	3	8	.273
California	1	5	.167	2	8	.200

Rocky Mountain Athletic

Western State	7	1	.875	9	3	.750
N.M. Highlands	6	2	.750	8	3	.727
Chadron State	6	2	.750	8	3	.727
Nebraska-Kearney	6	2	.750	7	4	.636
Fort Hays State	4	4	.500	5	6	.455
Fort Lewis	3	5	.375	4	7	.364
Mesa State	2	6	.250	3	8	.273
Colorado Mines	1	7	.125	3	8	.273
Adams State	1	7	.125	1	10	.090

South Atlantic

Carson-Newman	7	0	1.000	11	1	.917
Catawba	5	2	.714	8	3	.727
Wingate	4	3	.571	8	3	.727
Gardner-Webb	4	3	.571	8	3	.727
Mars Hill	3	4	.429	5	5	.500
Presbyterian	3	4	.429	5	6	.455
Newberry	2	5	.286	4	7	.364
Lenoir-Rhyne	0	7	.000	0	10	.000

Southern Intercollegiate Athletic

Albany State (GA)	6	0	1.000	11	1	.917
Alabama A&M	4	2	.667	7	4	.636
Kentucky State	4	2	.667	6	5	.545
Fort Valley State	4	2	.667	5	6	.455
Tuskegee	3	3	.500	6	4	.600
Morris Brown	3	3	.500	6	5	.545
Miles	3	3	.500	4	6	.400
Clark Atlanta	2	4	.333	4	7	.364
Savannah State	1	5	.167	3	8	.273
Morehouse	0	6	.000	3	8	.273

West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic

Shepherd	6	1	.857	9	1	.900
Glenville State	6	1	.857	9	3	.750
West Va. Wesleyan	5	2	.714	5	5	.500
Concord	3	4	.429	5	5	.500
West Va. State	3	4	.429	5	6	.455
Fairmont State	3	4	.429	5	6	.455
West Liberty State	2	5	.286	4	8	.333
West Va. Tech	0	7	.000	0	11	.000

Independents

New Haven	.	12	2	.857
Mercyhurst	.	6	3	.667
UC Davis	.	9	5	.643
Eilon	.	7	4	.636
Kentucky Wesleyan	.	5	4	.556
St. Joseph's (IN)	.	5	6	.455
Western New Mexico	.	4	5	.444
Gannon	.	4	6	.400
Portland State	.	4	7	.364
Humboldt State	.	2	8	.200
Quincy	.	0	10	.000
Lane	.	0	10	.000

Division III

CONFERENCE							OVERALL						
W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L
Mississippi College	4	1	.800	8	2	.800							
Howard Payne	3	2	.600	7	3	.700							
Hardin-Simmons	2	3	.400	7	3	.700							
McMurry	2	3	.400	5	5	.500							
Sul Ross State	2	3	.400	4	6	.400							
Austin College	2	3	.400	4	6	.400							

Centennial Football

Western Maryland	7	0	1.000	10	1	.909
Dickinson	6	1	.857	7	3	.700
Johns Hopkins	5	2	.714	7	3	.700
Franklin & Marshall	4	3	.571	4	6	.400
Ursinus	3	4	.429	4	6	.400
Gettysburg	2	5	.286	4	6	.400
Muhlenberg	1	6	.143	1	9	.100
Swarthmore	0	7	.000	0	10	.000

College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin

Augustana (IL)	6	1	.857	7	2</
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'97 College Recap

Division III continued

CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT

Presidents' Athletic

Grove City	5	0	1.000	9	2	.818
Wash. & Jefferson	4	1	.800	6	3	.667
Waynesburg	3	2	.600	5	4	.556
Bethany (WV)	2	3	.400	4	6	.400
Alfred	1	4	.200	2	8	.200
Thiel	0	5	.000	1	9	.000

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic

MacMurray	4	0	1.000	8	2	.800
Westminster (MO)	3	1	.750	6	4	.600
Greenville (IL)	2	2	.500	2	8	.200
Blackburn	1	3	.250	1	8	.111
Principia	0	4	.000	0	8	.000

Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic

Redlands	4	1	.800	7	2	.778
Cal Lutheran	4	1	.800	5	4	.556
Whittier	4	1	.800	5	4	.556
La Verne	2	3	.400	2	7	.222
Occidental	1	4	.200	1	8	.111
Clemson-M-S	0	5	.000	0	9	.000

Southern Collegiate Athletic

Trinity (TX)	4	0	1.000	10	1	.909
Centre	3	1	.750	6	3	.667
Sewanee	1	3	.250	5	4	.556
Millsaps	1	3	.250	3	7	.300
Rhodes	1	3	.250	2	7	.222

University Athletic Association

Carnegie Mellon	4	0	1.000	8	2	.800
Washington (MO)	3	1	.750	6	4	.600
Chicago	1	3	.250	5	4	.556
Case Reserve	1	3	.250	3	7	.300
Rochester	1	3	.250	1	8	.111

Upstate Collegiate Athletic

Rensselaer	4	0	1.000	9	1	.900
Union (NY)	3	1	.750	7	2	.778
Hobart	2	2	.500	6	4	.600
St. Lawrence	1	3	.250	2	7	.222
Rochester	0	4	.000	1	8	.111

Wisconsin State University

Wis.-Whitewater	7	0	1.000	9	1	.900
Wis.-La Crosse	5	2	.714	7	2	.778
Wis.-Stout	5	2	.714	6	4	.600
Wis.-Eau Claire	4	3	.571	7	3	.700
Wis.-Stevens Point	3	4	.429	6	4	.600
Wis.-River Falls	3	4	.429	5	5	.500
Wis.-Oshkosh	1	6	.143	3	7	.300
Wis.-Platteville	0	7	.000	1	9	.100

Independents

Catholic	10	1	.909
Methodist	9	1	.900
Coe	8	1	.889
Cortland State	8	3	.727
Buffalo State	7	2	.778
Hartwick	7	2	.778
Wesley	7	2	.778
Pomona-Pitzer	6	2	.750
Ithaca	7	3	.700
Cornell (IA)	6	3	.667
Martin Luther	6	3	.667
Brockport State	6	4	.600
Frostburg State	5	4	.556
Mt. St. Joseph's	5	4	.556
Menlo	5	5	.500
Nebraska Wesleyan	5	5	.500
Thomas More	5	5	.500
Aurora	4	5	.444
Chapman	4	5	.444
Bluffton	4	6	.400
Ferrum	4	6	.400
Wilmington (OH)	4	6	.400
Salisbury State	3	6	.333
Benedictine (IL)	3	7	.300
Maryville (TN)	3	7	.300
Colorado College	2	6	.250
St. Lawrence	2	7	.222
Chowan	2	8	.200
Defiance	1	8	.111
St. John Fisher	1	8	.111
SW Assembly of God	0	5	.000
Greensboro	0	9	.000

Bowl Games

Alamo	.....	Purdue 33, Oklahoma St. 20
Aloha	.....	Washington 51, Michigan St. 28
Carquest	.....	Georgia Tech 35, West Virginia 30
Citrus	.....	Florida 21, Penn St. 6
Copper	.....	Arizona 20, New Mexico 14
Cotton	.....	UCLA 29, Texas A&M 23
Fiesta	.....	Kansas St. 35, Syracuse 18
Gator	.....	North Carolina 42, Virginia Tech 3
Heritage	.....	Southern 34, South Carolina St. 28
Holiday	.....	Colorado St. 35, Missouri 24
Humanitarian	.....	Cincinnati 35, Utah St. 19
Independence	.....	LSU 27, Notre Dame 9
Las Vegas	.....	Oregon 41, Air Force 13
Liberty	.....	Southern Mississippi 41, Pittsburgh 7
Motor City	.....	Mississippi 34, Marshall 31
Orange	.....	Nebraska 42, Tennessee 17
Outback	.....	Georgia 33, Wisconsin 6
Peach	.....	Auburn 21, Clemson 17
Rose	.....	Michigan 21, Washington St. 16
Sugar	.....	Florida St. 31, Ohio St. 14
Sun	.....	Arizona St. 17, Iowa 7

Division I-AA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND

Delaware 24	.....	Hofstra 14
Eastern Washington 40	.....	Northwestern State 10
Georgia Southern 52	.....	Florida A&M 37
McNeese State 19	.....	Montana 14
Villanova 49	.....	Colgate 28
Western Illinois 31	.....	Jackson State 24
Western Kentucky 42	.....	Eastern Kentucky 14
Youngstown State 28	.....	Hampton 13

QUARTERFINALS

Delaware 16	.....	Georgia Southern 7
Eastern Washington 38	.....	Western Kentucky 21
McNeese State 14	.....	Western Illinois 12
Youngstown State 37	.....	Villanova 34

SEMIFINALS

McNeese State 23	.....	Delaware 21
Youngstown State 25	Eastern Washington 14

CHAMPIONSHIP

Youngstown State 10	McNeese State 9
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Division II Playoffs

FIRST ROUND

Albany State 10	Southern Arkansas 0
Angelo State 46	Western State 12
Carson-Newman 21	.....	North Alabama 7
New Haven 47	.....	Glenville State 7
Northern Colorado 24	.....	Pittsburgh State 16
Northwest Missouri St. 39	.....	North Dakota State 28
Slippery Rock 30	.....	Ashland 20
UC Davis 37	.....	Texas A&M-Kingsville 33

QUARTERFINALS

Carson-Newman 23	.....	Albany State 22
New Haven 49	.....	Slippery Rock 21
Northern Colorado 35	.....	Northwest Missouri St. 19
UC Davis 50	.....	Angelo State 33

SEMIFINALS

New Haven 27	.....	UC Davis 25
Northern Colorado 30	Carson-Newman 29

CHAMPIONSHIP

Northern Colorado 51	New Haven 0
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Division III Playoffs

FIRST ROUND

Augsburg 34	Concordia 22
College of New Jersey 34	Cortland St. 30
John Carroll 30	.....	Hanover 20
Lycoming 27	.....	Western Maryland 13
Mount Union 34	.....	Allegheny 30
Rowan 43	.....	Coast Guard 0
Simpson 34	.....	Wis.-Whitewater 31
Trinity 44	.....	Catholic 33

QUARTERFINALS

Lycoming 46	.....	Trinity 26
Mount Union 59	.....	John Carroll 7
Rowan 13	.....	College of New Jersey 7
Simpson 61	.....	Augsburg 21

SEMIFINALS

Lycoming 28	Rowan 20
Mount Union 54	Simpson 7

CHAMPIONSHIP

Mount Union 61	Lycoming 12
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NAIA Playoffs

FIRST ROUND

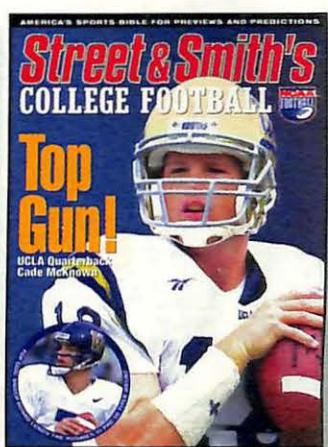
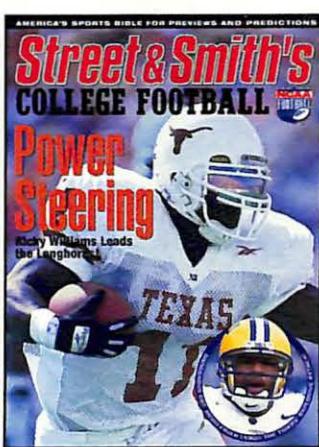
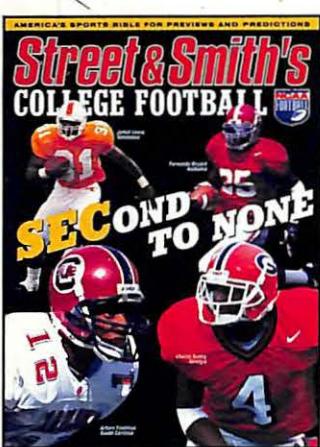
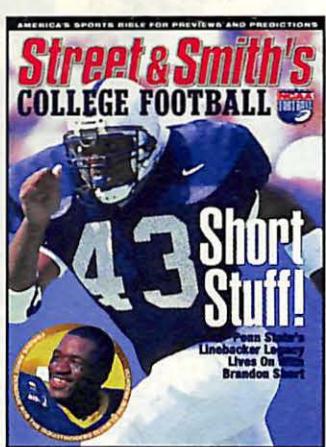
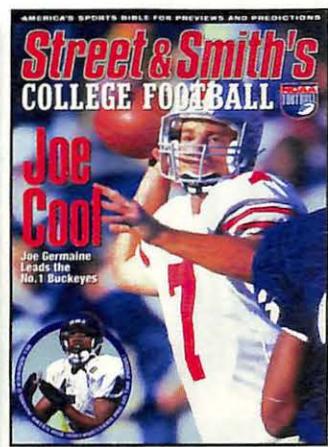
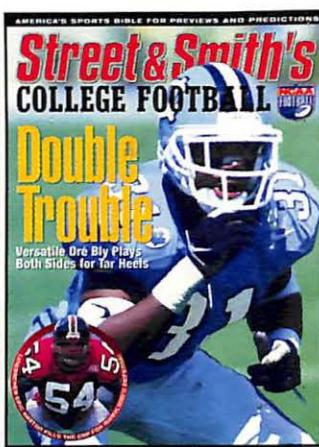
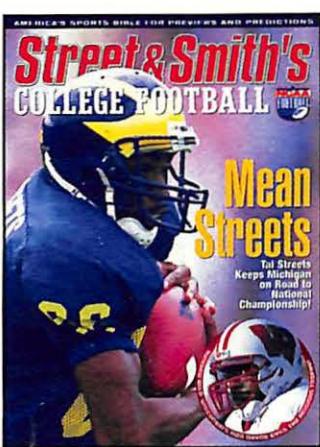
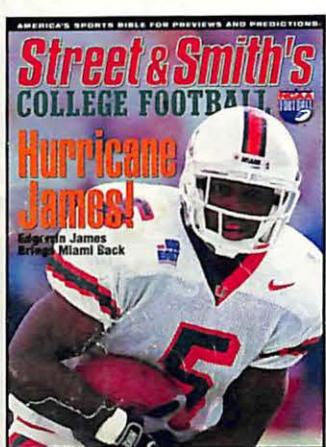
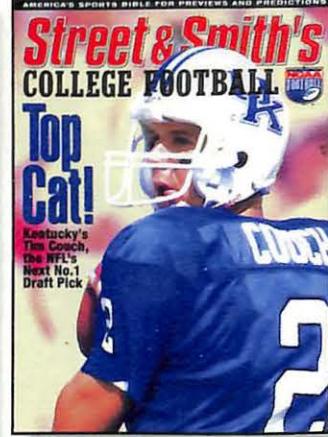
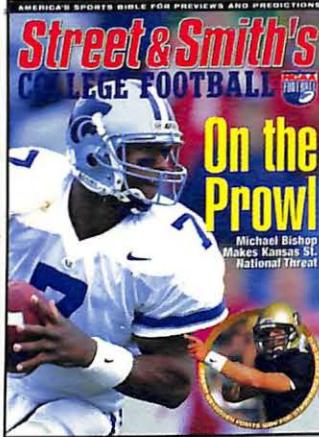
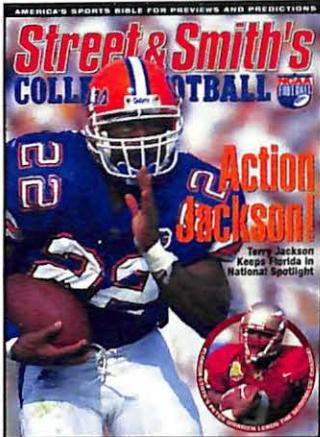
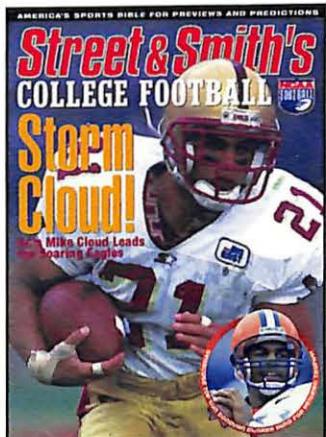
Doane (NE) 53	Southwestern (KS) 28
Evangel (MO) 46	McKendree (IL) 6
Findlay (OH) 40	Westminster (PA) 0
Geneva (PA) 34	Campbellsville (KY) 14
Jameston (ND)		

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